

2001 Iowa SCORP

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor
Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director

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The 2001 Iowa SCORP adopts by reference all plans, surveys and documents presented within.

The 2001 Iowa SCORP was prepared by DNR's:

Parks, Recreation and Preserves Division

Allen Farris, Interim Division Administrator

Arnie Sohn, Program Administration Bureau Chief

Mark Warren, Recreation and Open Spaces Planner

Text: Mark Warren and Arnie Sohn

Design and Layout: Mark Warren

Cover Design: Bob Castelline

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2001 Iowa Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was developed by the Parks, Recreation and Preserves Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in accordance with the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The SCORP attempts to provide a comprehensive look at outdoor recreation in the State of Iowa in an easy-to-use format.

Several topics are examined in the 2001 Iowa SCORP including: Iowa's outdoor recreation users, Iowa's outdoor recreation supply and opportunities, outdoor recreation issues and priorities, surveys on public attitudes towards outdoor recreation, agencies that provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and grants and other programs related to outdoor recreation in Iowa.

Outdoor recreation has numerous benefits for both the public and the environment. Recreation areas provide the public with places to gather with family and friends, places to relax, and places that promote physical activity. These types of places add to an area's and person's quality of life. Recreation areas also help to shape a community through planning efforts to provide adequate recreation space and facilities for the population served. Parks

and open spaces can also provide environmental benefits such as buffers between conflicting land uses.

During the creation of this document, a SCORP Committee was formed to identify statewide outdoor recreation issues and develop priorities to address these issues. The Committee consisted of a wide variety of individuals and organizations with ties to outdoor recreation. The issues and priorities are outlined in the 2001 Iowa SCORP as well as in the OPSP, Open Project Selection Process, which is attached as a supplement. The 2001 Iowa SCORP and the OPSP should be consulted by those making application through outdoor recreation grant programs.

The DNR understands the importance of forming partnerships when addressing outdoor recreation in the State of Iowa. This plan attempts to present information that will be useful to outdoor recreation providers and users. Efforts between public, private, federal, state and local agencies are necessary to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the citizens of Iowa. Continued partnerships between these agencies and the public will ensure Iowans will have access to high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities today and in the future.

Introduction

2001 Iowa SCORP

An outline map of the state of Iowa is positioned behind the text "2001 Iowa SCORP". The map shows the state's characteristic rectangular shape with its irregular, wavy borders.

ABOUT THE 2001 IOWA SCORP

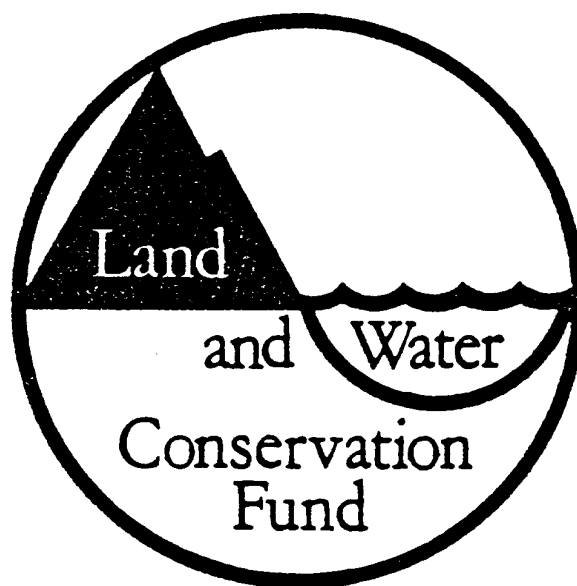
The 2001 SCORP, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, is the seventh edition of the plan. The 2001 SCORP is a comprehensive yet compact evaluation of outdoor recreation in the State of Iowa. Efforts were taken to ensure the plan was developed through public, private and other outside input. This effort included the formation of the 2001 SCORP Committee. The Committee was made up of various persons representing a wide range of outdoor recreation interests, concerns, and backgrounds. The Committee provided input in identifying outdoor recreation issues, developing priorities that should be considered when planning future outdoor recreation opportunities, and assisted with the overall review of the plan. Other outside input included numerous public meetings including REAP, Resource Enhancement and Protection assemblies, Destination Parks Meetings, and two surveys that were conducted in conjunction with the development of this plan. Further information was gained through a statewide inventory of all public outdoor recreation areas in the state.

The SCORP is a direct result of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Congress created the LWCF in 1965 to create parks and open spaces, protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges, preserve habitat and enhance recreational opportunities. Since its initiation, the LWCF has provided nearly \$46 million in matching grants to the State of Iowa and its cities and counties. Over 1,000 parks and open spaces in the State of Iowa have benefited from the Fund. From 1996 to 1999, no money was available through the LWCF however; a small amount of funding was available in 2000. Optimism remains high that a higher level of funding will be available in the following years. Several bills remain in debate in Congress that could have positive effects on the LWCF.

The need to provide Iowans with quality outdoor recreation opportunities remains very high. There are several factors contributing to the demand for outdoor recreation. The rapid expansion of urban areas puts great stress on nearby existing areas and often reduces the amount of land available for park and recreation developments. The continual increase in the use of existing parks and recreation areas is evidence that there is great demand for outdoor recreation opportunities. Further evidence lies in the ever changing outdoor recreation habits as activities such as soccer, skating and off-road vehicle riding become increasingly popular. Each year

the amount of funding requested for recreational programs increases while the amount available decreases, leaving many recreational needs unfilled. In 2000, the State of Iowa had \$248,500 available through the LWCF but had over \$2 million in requests. Also in 2000, the State of Iowa had \$3 million available through the Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program but had over \$5.3 million in requests.

Iowa's park system has been evolving for the last 80 years. So too have the social and economic factors affecting people's leisure time. Over those years the public has continued to express its desire and increasing demand for outdoor recreation services and facilities that are provided by both the private and public sectors.



PURPOSE OF THE 2001 IOWA SCORP

The SCORP's primary functions are to assess the supply of and the demand for outdoor recreation resources and to help define priorities for actions on the part of all sectors to meet identified needs. Outdoor recreation means many different things to many different people. With that in mind, it is vital that this plan does not exclude any current or future user groups. City, county, state and federal governments as well as the private sector, all play active roles in meeting public demands for recreation services and facilities.

The 2001 SCORP has three main goals:

1. To serve as a guide to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and local and private agencies in protecting and enhancing the state's natural outdoor recreational resources.
2. To identify outdoor recreation issues and priorities that will be incorporated in the local outdoor recreation grant programs administered by the DNR.
3. To use input and research from public and private groups, and information obtained from a statewide inventory of outdoor recreation facilities in the state, to assist local, state, federal, and private agencies in evaluating their outdoor recreation needs and opportunities.

This year's SCORP has been approached differently than in the past. The idea is to provide a more usable plan that focuses its attention mainly, but not exclusively, on the recreational opportunities that the DNR provides. The DNR administers several recreation related grant programs; how each applicant's proposed project relates to the SCORP priorities is a very important factor, among other program specific criteria, when determining funding.

Iowa's Outdoor Recreation Users

2001 Iowa SCORP

An outline map of the state of Iowa is positioned behind the text "2001 Iowa SCORP". The map is a simple black line drawing showing the state's irregular borders.

In order to better provide recreational opportunities in the State of Iowa it is essential to understand who the users are. There are a number of surveys and studies that have been completed that provide information helpful towards this understanding. These surveys and studies are detailed on pages 20-32 of this document. Another key to understanding the users and future users of Iowa's recreation areas is to understand the population makeup of the state. Certainly non-state residents also visit Iowa's recreation areas, however, studies conducted during the summer of 2000 reported that 90 percent of visitors to Iowa's State Parks are Iowa residents while 70 percent of Iowa residents vacation in Iowa. Therefore understanding Iowa's population makeup is an essential piece of information when providing recreational opportunities in the State of Iowa.

Census Data



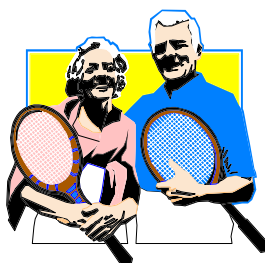
As of the date of publication of this document, only the 2000 state's population results were available from the 2000 Census data. Because of this, estimates will have to be used for the majority of this section.

Iowa's population grew 5.5% between 1990 and 2000 from 2,776,755 to 2,926,324. This is slightly higher than what the estimates had projected. When comparing Iowa's population growth with the seven states that border Iowa, Iowa has the lowest percentage increase. The next closest to Iowa is Nebraska with an increase of 8.4% while Minnesota had the largest increase between 1990 and 2000 at 12.4 percent. Iowa and all states bordering Iowa had increases that were 1.4% to 3.2% higher than what estimates projected. Due to this fact, there is some concern that under estimations may occur with other data as well.

Estimates compiled in 1999 by the U.S. Census Bureau show that births have exceeded deaths in Iowa by a diminishing rate since the early 1980s. This helps to explain the relatively small growth rate. In addition, during the past several decades, Iowa has experienced negative net migration, meaning more people have left Iowa than entered. This was particularly the case in the 1980s when there was a negative migration of 280,000 residents. According to 1999 estimates, this trend has reversed during the 1990s with an expected net migration of 5,600 residents into the state. It is important to understand where the 5,600 new residents to move to Iowa

came from. Examining that closer, it is estimated that 15,500 more residents of Iowa moved to other states than residents from other states moving to Iowa. Iowa was, however, estimated to have experienced a positive net international migration of 21,100. This shows that Iowa's minority population is increasing and is an important factor to consider when planning future outdoor recreation opportunities.

Another factor that has an effect on Iowa's population is urbanization. Urban is defined as those living in incorporated places with a population of at least 2,500. Each decade has seen an increase in the total percentage of the Iowa population living in urban areas. In 1970, 57.2% of the population lived in urban areas. In 1980, that figure was up to 58.6% and in 1990 it rose again to 60.6%. That trend is expected to continue in 2000.



The age makeup of the population is also a very important factor to examine. Iowa's median age continues to increase with each census. In 1980 Iowa's median age was 30, in 1990 it was 34; it is estimated to be 36.9 in 1999 and

projected to be 38 in 2010 and 40.8 in 2020. It is very obvious that Iowa's population continues to age. Another statistic to illustrate this is the number of persons in the state under the age of 5 compared to the number of persons over the age of 75. In 1990, the number of persons over the age of 75 surpassed the number of persons under the age of 5 for the first time since census data has been collected. Florida was the only other state where this had occurred. This has occurred as a result of the steady increase in persons over 75 and the steady decrease, except for the baby boom decades, of persons under the age of 5. There was also a large percentage decrease of persons under the age of 30 from 1980 to 1990. In 1980, 50% of Iowa's population was under the age of 30; this percentage had shrunk to 43.6% by 1990, and is estimated to be 40.9% of Iowa's total population in 2000.

For total population, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc., Washington D.C., project that Iowa will return to slow but steady gains in the coming decades, a pattern similar to what occurred throughout much of the current century.

In reviewing all information presented, the following trends and implications are projected:

- Iowa's population to have a percentage increase in minority population.

Persons raised in other cultures will bring new outdoor recreation pursuits that previously may not have been in demand in Iowa.

- An increase in the number of Iowans living in urban settings and a decrease in the number of Iowans living in rural areas.

Demand for recreation opportunities "close to home" will continue to increase.

Surveys consistently show that urban dwellers participate more frequently in outdoor recreation pursuits than do rural residents.

Demand for development on lands adjacent to or near urban areas often leads to pricing of property to the point where cost is prohibitive for development of recreational purposes.

- A continual aging of the population characterized by an increase in persons over the age of 75 and a decrease in persons under the age of 30.

Recreation opportunities must be made available to meet the needs for more passive leisure time opportunities.

Opportunities for persons with disabilities will most likely need to increase.

Many feel that more recreational opportunities aimed at the younger segment of the population will add incentives for those to remain in the state.

Iowa's population as aging. With this in mind, the fact remains that outdoor recreational opportunities for children is a very important factor to address and playgrounds can provide multiple benefits to children.

Playgrounds are a fundamental part of the childhood experience. Playgrounds should provide opportunities where children can stretch their physical, emotional, social and intellectual skills. Community playgrounds play an increasingly important role in children's' lives. The goal of every play area is to provide a challenging yet safe play environment. Many factors contribute to the success in finding the correct balance. These factors include age appropriate design (separate play structures are recommended for ages 2-5 and ages 5-12 with signage designated as such), type and depth of playground surfacing, level of equipment maintenance and type of supervision. Current existing public playgrounds and surfacing should be evaluated for compliance with the 'Handbook for Public Playground Safety' from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The CPSC created its playground safety guidelines as a detailed working blueprint to help local communities, schools, parks and other groups to build safe playgrounds.

The National Program for Playground Safety recently evaluated playgrounds in all 50 states and graded them. Public parks in Iowa received a C- as an overall grade based on these factors: supervision - C+, age-appropriate design - C+, fall surfacing - C- and equipment maintenance - D-. More than 20,000 children are treated in US hospital emergency rooms each year for injuries associated with playground equipment. Iowa needs to improve our commitment to safe play environments.

Children and Playgrounds

As discussed previously, Census data continues to show

Planning Process

2001 Iowa SCORP

An outline map of the state of Iowa is positioned behind the text "2001 Iowa SCORP". The map shows the state's irregular borders, including its northern, southern, and eastern edges.

SCORP COMMITTEE



A volunteer committee was formed by soliciting over 40 agencies and organizations, asking for a representative to serve on the SCORP Committee.

Great effort was made to gather a wide variety of individuals and organizations with ties to outdoor recreation issues. Altogether, over 25 individuals became involved with the SCORP Committee during the process either by attending one of the two scheduled meetings, or by providing outside input and resources. Diverse representation was achieved with persons from local and state public agencies and private not-for-profit agencies serving on the committee. A list of all agencies and organizations solicited to participate in the SCORP Committee can be found on page 16.

The SCORP Committee had three identified main duties which were as follows:

- Assist in identifying outdoor recreation issues in Iowa.
- Assist in developing priorities that should be considered when planning future outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Assist in reviewing the 2001 Iowa SCORP.

There were two SCORP Committee meetings held. The first meeting served as an introduction to the SCORP process. The requirements of the SCORP document and the major goals outlining the 2001 Iowa SCORP were presented as well as discussion of the role of the SCORP Committee. A large part of the meeting was devoted to open discussion related to outdoor recreation in Iowa. This was done in order to give the members an opportunity to speak on what they feel are issues important to outdoor recreation in Iowa. This also allowed others to hear ideas that they may not have thought of previously. When the meeting adjourned, the committee members were then given the assignment to list issues affecting outdoor recreation in the State of Iowa.

In the following weeks, the issues and priorities that were submitted by the SCORP Committee were compiled and organized into like categories. The submitted informa-

tion was then sent back to the committee members so that they could review and familiarize themselves with the list. The members were asked to consider all issues and priorities and to begin to think about what they feel should receive the highest priority.

The second SCORP Committee meeting was held in order to prioritize the list of issues and priorities which were submitted by the committee. A facilitator from the Iowa Department of Economic Development was asked to assist with the meeting activities. The issues and priorities were displayed and the committee members were given the opportunity to revise the list and also make statements about the list. An exercise was then done in order to prioritize the list.

Issues and Priorities Facing Outdoor Recreation in Iowa

When planning for the future in outdoor recreation, it becomes necessary to identify issues and priorities facing outdoor recreation in Iowa. Considering the wide array of interests in outdoor recreation, what is an issue or priority to one group may be of little concern to another. The SCORP Committee was formed with the intention of bringing together into one group, a very diverse committee of persons with a strong interest in outdoor recreation, representing every spectrum of outdoor recreation possible.

The committee identified an extensive list of issues and priorities that were divided into like subject areas. The result was eleven general areas where the committee felt priorities should focus most strongly on in outdoor recreation. The following is a list of the eleven general areas in order of priority as determined by the SCORP Committee.

Protection
Partnerships
Education
Funding
Land Acquisition
Facilities
Marketing
Shared Resources
Trends
Analysis
Safety and Persons with Disabilities
Accessibility



The following is a list of specific outdoor recreation issues that should be given special attention as developed by the SCORP Committee. The committee studied all issues and priorities submitted by members of their group and were given a limited number of “votes” from which they chose what areas of outdoor recreation need special consideration. The top twelve choices follow in no particular order:

- Better marketing of outdoor recreational opportunities using the latest technologies, i.e. Internet, E-mail, and media. Market events and festivals too. Tie recreational opportunities with other attractions and facilities and promote these cooperatively to attract visitors, both in state and out of state.
- Develop partnerships between various agencies, special interest groups and government organizations, state and local, to best preserve and promote outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Educate all ages, with an emphasis on the young, in outdoor skills and stewardship ethics.
- Educate public and policy makers, (i.e. Iowa Legislature) on the importance of outdoor recreation.
- Seek additional funding and coordinate with the Iowa League of Cities, Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa Parks and Recreation Association, Council of Governments and other groups to inform local governments of what funding is available.
- Iowa should acquire more lands and waters representative of various ecological communities and landforms throughout the state, and manage these areas carefully as nature preserves to be left in their present state, studied and appreciated by present and future generations. These areas should have maximum protection from all competing land uses as well as protection from destructive and consumptive forms of recreation.
- Recreational developments should be appropriate uses of the particular land area and should incorporate the needs of protecting sensitive natural areas.
- Need to define and preserve areas to remain primitive, areas that are resources to the state, nation and world. Expand and buffer parks. Protect representative landscapes in each landform region.

- Focus on education of Iowans in order to increase the awareness and the appreciation of our natural resources. This includes every day citizens and professionals in recreation and land management.
- Need to renovate and maintain existing facilities to ensure there is equal access for all users (persons with disabilities) and ensure that all new projects will provide equal access. Need to focus not only on new developments, but minimizing the deterioration of existing facilities and ADA compliance of existing facilities.
- Future recreational opportunities should focus on attracting all ages of people to Iowa and promote improving the health and wellness of Iowa. Broaden focus to accommodate new trends in recreation, i.e. paintball areas, rollerblading, skateboarding, ATVs, etc.
- The role of private lands for recreation is an area that could be expanded upon.

List of Agencies and Organizations Solicited for the SCORP Committee

- Iowa County Conservation Boards
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Rock Island District
 - Kansas City District
 - Omaha District
 - St. Paul District
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Park Service
 - Midwest Region
- Iowa Department of Agriculture
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Iowa Department of Economic Development
 - Division of Tourism
 - Division of Rural and Community Development
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- Iowa Recreation and Parks Association
- Loess Hills Preservation Society
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sierra Club
- Ducks Unlimited
- Pheasants Forever
- Iowa Wild Turkey Foundation
- The Golf Office
- Iowa Department of Elder Affairs
- Iowa Department of Education
- Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
- Iowa State Historical Society
- Iowa Off Highway Vehicle Association
- Iowa Snowmobile Association
- Iowa League of Cities
- Mahaska Community Recreation Foundation
- Missouri Fox Trotters
- Central Iowa Tourism Association
- Eastern Iowa Tourism Association
- Western Iowa Tourism Region
- Iowa Audubon Council
- Iowa Conservation Education Council
- Iowa Prairie Network
- Iowa Wildlife Federation
- Iowa Environmental Council
- Volkspoint Association
- Iowa Department of Human Rights
- Iowa State Association of Counties
- League of Iowa Bicyclists
- Iowa Trails Council

Iowa's Outdoor Recreation Resources

2001 Iowa SCORP

An outline map of the state of Iowa is positioned behind the text "2001 Iowa SCORP". The map shows the state's irregular borders, including the Mississippi River to the east and the Missouri River to the west.

NATURAL RESOURCE BASE

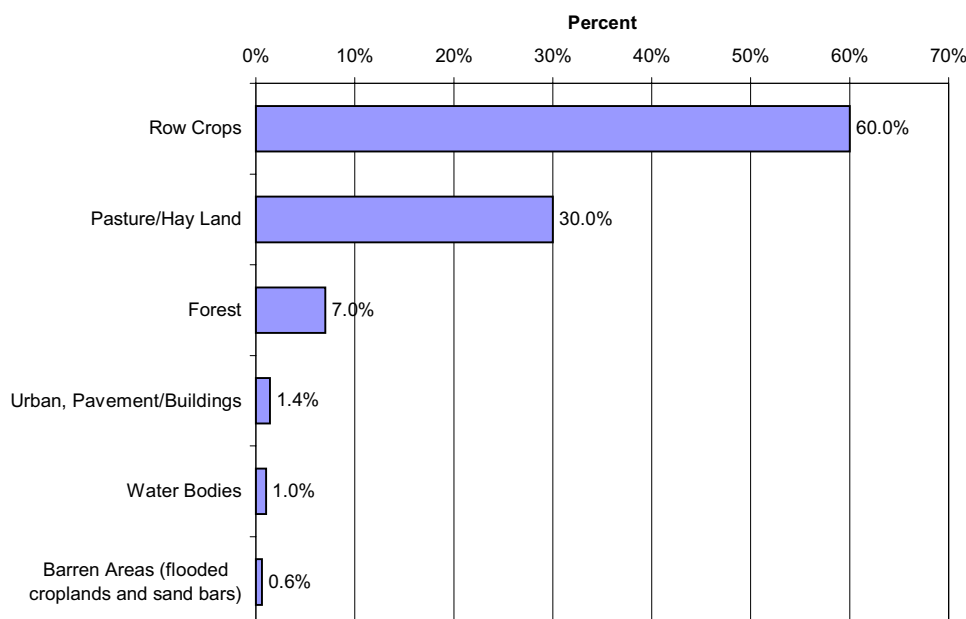
Land Use

Iowa once was a sea of tall grasses combined with 7 million acres of forests, 1.5 million acres of marshland, numerous significant water resources in its rivers, streams, and lakes and outlined on both sides by two great rivers, the Mississippi and Missouri. The land was ideal for crop production and early settlers quickly took advantage. Today Iowa remains primarily an agricultural based state; however, the shape of the land has changed drastically. Over 90% of the land in Iowa is now used for agricultural purposes. Approximately 60% of the land in Iowa is used for row crops with 30% used in other agricultural purposes including pasture and hay land. Forest area once comprised 19% of the land cover in Iowa but is now only 6%. Urban areas including pavement, buildings, and other large structures comprise slightly over 1%. Bodies of water including streams, rivers, and lakes, account for 1% while barren land, which includes flooded cropland and sand bars, makes up less than 1% of the land use in Iowa.

Agriculture

When you think of Iowa, you think of agriculture, and for good reason; Iowa leads the nation in the production of corn, soybeans, and pork and is second in egg production. By percentage, more land in Iowa is used for agricultural purposes than any other state in the country.

Land Cover in Iowa



Conservation efforts are changing the landscape and paying dividends too. Soil erosion on Iowa's cropland has dropped to 5.3 tons/acre/year, a decrease of 50% since 1982, and a 21% drop since 1992 alone. Other significant changes to the landscape include land development, where 1.7 million acres, nearly 5 percent, of Iowa is now developed land. Developed land increased at a rate of 9,520 acres/year between 1987 and 1997, and the average increased to nearly 14,000 acres per year from 1992-1997.

Source: 1997 National Resources Inventory (revised December 2000)

Woodlands



According to a survey of Iowa's forest resources conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, total forested acres increased slightly from 2 million in 1990 to 2.2 million in 2000. In 1846, when Iowa became a state, the total number of forested acres was 6.7 million. The number of acres of trees planted in Iowa has steadily risen between 1985 and 2000. In 1985, less than 4,000 acres of trees were planted. In 2000, this figure had risen to 7,500 acres of trees planted. Much of the increase is due to aggressive tree planting, encouraged by state and federal initiatives for rural areas.

The U.S. Forest Service also conducted a study using satellite images to determine the amount of urban forest in the state. The results show there are 151,261 acres of urban forest in the state. Private landowners own 92% of the woodlands in Iowa. The Iowa State Forest inventory includes four major areas, they are: Shimek State Forest, 9,029 acres; Yellow River State Forest, 8,503 acres; Stephens State Forest, 13,092 acres; and Loess Hills State Forest, 9,236 acres. There are also six smaller forest units. Combined with the 4 major units, there is a total of 40,706 acres of forest in Iowa's state forest system.

Prairies



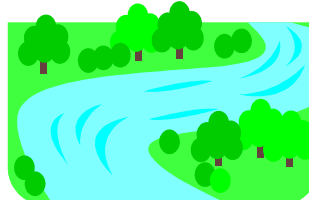
Iowa's rich prairie soils provide the base for much of the state's leading agricultural production. Only small, isolated tracts of native prairie remain due to the conversion of the land into more intensive agricultural pursuits. At the time of settlement in Iowa, prairies occupied approximately 28 million acres. In essence, those areas that were not woodlands were prairie, savanna, natural lakes and marshes.

Through the state preserves system some of the best examples of our prairies have been protected. Bits of Iowa's past are identified and protected forever. Remnants of native prairie have been identified around the state, dazzling visitors with more than 300 prairie species.

The Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (formerly Walnut Creek) was established in 1990. The refuge is located near Prairie City in Jasper County and represents the most ambitious tall grass prairie/oak savanna reconstruction project ever undertaken. Congress authorized the refuge to purchase 8,654 acres, and the first

parcel of land was purchased in April 1991. To date, 5,000 acres of the 8,654 goal have been acquired. The refuge includes the Learning Center, which includes a 13,000-square-foot exhibit hall, bookstore, meeting rooms, indoor/outdoor picnic areas, tours, and more.

Water



The typical perception of Iowa is not that of a state rich in water resources; however, in many respects that is a misperception. Iowa's major border rivers, the Mississippi and

Missouri, total 494 miles in length and provide over 217,000 acres of diverse river environments located in close proximity to a large segment of the state's population. In addition, Iowa is the only state bordered by two navigable rivers. Congress recognizes the Mississippi as both a fish and wildlife refuge and as a major transportation channel. This is the only such designation in the nation.

Additional Iowa water resources are briefly summarized in the following table.

Iowa Water Resources

Resource	Length (Miles)	Area (Acres)
Cold Water Systems	747	545
Interior Warm Water Rivers and Streams	70,698	119,129
Mississippi River (Pools 9-19)	315	201,142
Missouri River (borders Iowa)	178	16,623
Natural Lakes(36)	NA	34,522
Artificial Lakes (283)	NA	25,572
Federal Reservoirs (4)	NA	40,580
Farm Ponds (87,000)	NA	NA

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN IOWA

Iowans have the opportunity to participate in many varied and available outdoor recreational activities. Outdoor recreational areas provide benefits to both the individual and the public. Planners use parks and open spaces as an effective development tool by using them as buffers between conflicting land uses. These areas are used as environmental tools by providing flood control, preserving natural and cultural resources, and providing areas for wildlife protection. Economic benefits include being a draw for tourism and increasing an area's quality of life, which is attractive to prospective residents. Recreation has always played a major part in the lives of individual human beings. We are just beginning to understand the physical and mental benefits of recreation.

The supply of outdoor recreation areas in Iowa is monitored to help guide acquisition and development decisions. Such knowledge is instrumental in planning future outdoor recreational developments which provide benefits as listed previously. The DNR maintains two separate inventories of outdoor recreation facilities, MEGA, Maintenance, Engineering, Grants, and Accounting; and ORRF, Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities Inventory.

MEGA, Maintenance, Engineering, Grants, and Accounting

MEGA is a comprehensive maintenance and inventory management system of Department of Natural Resources facilities. MEGA is a very large and detailed database and provides the following information:

Maintenance. The system provides information for estimating, prioritizing and controlling the facility maintenance projects.

Engineering. The system provides a record of all man-made facilities including the facility's condition, size, year constructed and so on. This provides useful data for engineering, planning, and for staff administrators.

Grants. Many facilities are cost-shared with federal funds. The various federal agencies expect the DNR to maintain accountability for projects that were cost-shared with federal funds.

Accounting. The system provides accounting controls for fixed assets in a manner similar to a private sector

business. The lack of such records has been a source of continuing criticism in the annual state audit reports.

At this point all of the MEGA data has been collected and entered into a complete system. This system will provide good data for future policy and budget decisions by the DNR. This is an evolving system that is confirmed once a year, and updated quarterly.

ORRF, Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities Inventory

In the early 1970s, the Conservation Commission developed a system for the preparation and storage of a detailed statewide outdoor recreation inventory. The system is comprised of quantitative information concerning outdoor recreation facilities across Iowa that is entered and stored on a large computer database. The inventory process strives to compile information for every individual outdoor recreation area in Iowa; including all federal, state, county, municipal, private, and semiprivate areas. This information was updated in the summer of 2000 and is presented in the following section.



IOWA'S RECREATION SUPPLY

The ORRF Inventory provides some interesting information when compared to the same information that was collected in the past. The following section displays some results collected during the summer of 2000 and compares the information with 1995 data.

Table 1 displays a list of information collected and shows increases in all recreation opportunities with the exception of two, Lodge Units and All Camping Units. This represents facilities not in existence in 1995, and also includes areas that may have been missed in previous inventories, but were in existence. However, because the same method was used to collect the data, it is safe to conclude that there have been significant increases in outdoor recreation opportunities in the State of Iowa. Trends in outdoor recreation can also be seen in this table. Activities considered being traditional from a local outdoor recreation standpoint such as softball and baseball fields, game courts, and playground facilities, experienced only modest gains. More recent trends in outdoor recreation include soccer fields and skateboard parks, which were not even included in the 1995 inventory. The 2000 inventory revealed that many of these types of recreation opportunities are becoming more common, mainly at the local level. This shows that many local governments are aware of, and are attempting to meet the demands of new trends in outdoor recreation.

It was discovered that while collecting data on natural and artificial lake acres, many lakes had been counted multiple times. An attempt was made to correct this and is reflected in the large decrease of natural and artificial lakes acres from 1995 to 2000. The 2000 numbers are believed to be the most accurate information available. Oxbow lakes are included as natural lakes.

Table 2 on the following page displays the inventory of 6,551 recreation facilities in the state. The same information was collected and displayed in the 1995 SCORP when 5,775 areas were inventoried. There was a net gain of 776 areas in the inventory from 1995 to 2000.

Table 3, and charts 4a and 4b display information about the ownership and management of outdoor recreation facilities in the state based on total acres. The results are not surprising on the surface, however, the most relevant data obtained from the table and charts is the number of partnerships that are established between the various agencies. A large amount (152,620 acres) of land owned by an agency is managed by a different agency. This is a great example of agencies working together to establish relationships that ensure the best situation for the outdoor recreation area and its users.

Note: The total outdoor recreation acres listed in Table 3 is different than that listed in Tables 1 and 2. This is due to overlap of acres for areas managed by more than one agency. This occurs in rare cases but is the cause for the discrepancy.

Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Table 1

Category	1995	2000	Difference	Percent Gain or Loss
Total Acres	726,825	900,767	174,000	23.9%
Land Acres	590,064	700,163	110,099	18.6%
Public Hunting Acres	418,820	544,266	125,406	29.9%
Natural Lake Acres	55,354	45,654	-9,700	-17.5%
Artificial Lake Acres	118,581	69,854	-48,727	-41.1%
All Trails Miles	2,977	3,664	687	23.1%
All Camping Units	35,557	34,979	-578	-1.6%
Shelter Houses	3,347	4,030	683	20.4%
Lodge Units	7,699	6,258	-1,441	-18.7%
Softball/Baseball Fields	1,896	2,071	175	9.2%
Game Courts	1,433	1,696	263	18.4%
Playgrounds	2,997	3,118	121	4%
Playfields (Acres)	3,508	3,947	439	12.5%
Tennis Courts	1,423	1,445	22	1.6%
Soccer Fields	NA	289	289	NA
Skateboard Parks	NA	20	20	NA

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES AND FACILITIES INVENTORY
SUMMER 2000
SUMMARY REPORT FOR 6,551 AREAS
Table 2**

TOTAL ACRES	900,767	PICNIC SHELTERS	
		OPEN SHELTER HOUSES	3,419
LAND		ENCLOSED SHELTER HOUSES	611
LAND ACRES	700,163		
PUBLIC HUNTING ACRES	544,226	SWIMMING POOLS	
		SWIMMING	441
WATER		WADING	318
NATURAL LAKE ACRES	45,654		
ARTIFICIAL LAKE ACRES	69,854	LODGE UNITS	
		RESORT ROOMS	5,219
MARSH		MODERN CABINS	943
NATURAL MARSH	28,539	NON-MODERN CABINS	96
ARTIFICIAL MARSH	32,699		
		SHOOTING RANGES	
BOATING		SKEET	29
BOAT RAMPS (LANES)	1,298	TRAP	118
DOCK SLIPS	4,851	SPORTING CLAYS	16
RENTAL ESTABLISHMENT	1,044	RIFLE & PISTOL	104
		ARCHERY	102
BEACH FRONTAGE (FEET)	85,239		
		SPORT AREAS	
TRAILS		SOFTBALL	1,341
ALL TRAILS (MILES)	3,664	BASEBALL	730
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS	917	GAME COURTS	1,696
FOOT TRAILS	2,911	PLAYGROUNDS	3,118
BIKE TRAILS	1,398	PLAYFIELDS (ACRES)	3,947
SNOWMOBILE TRAILS	980	TENNIS COURTS	1,445
ATV TRAILS	74	SOCCER FIELDS	289
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING TRAILS	1,560	SKATEBOARD PARKS	20
MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS	425		
		GOLF COURSES	
FACILITIES		PAR 3	14
INTERPRETIVE AREAS	561	9 HOLE	328
ACCESSIBLE AREAS	806	18 HOLE	130
		FRISBEE GOLF	8
SITES			
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS	138	WINTER SPORTS AREAS	352
HISTORICAL AREAS	548		
		ICE SKATING AREAS	255
CAMPING			
MODERN CAMPING UNITS	20,986	LATRINES	
NON MODERN CAMPING UNITS	11,052	MODERN (UNITS)	4,303
PRIMITIVE CAMPING UNITS	2,941	PIT OR VAULT (UNITS)	2,243
PICNIC TABLES	58,635	PARKING (SPACES)	178,761

Table 3

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF IOWA'S RECREATION LANDS								
MANAGEMENT	OWNERSHIP							
	County	Federal	Municipal	Private	State	Semi-Private	Total	Percent
County	134,434	453	1,089	1,717	19,918	1,920	159,531	17.1
Federal	0	172,710	0	0	5	0	172,715	18.5
Municipal	255	40	50,293	587	514	1,296	52,985	5.7
Private	287	294	706	71,584	25	1,277	74,173	8.0
State	3,678	100,054	3,644	152	339,296	0	446,824	47.9
Semi-Private	335	4	63	14,306	1	11,375	26,084	2.8
Total	138,989	273,555	55,795	88,346	359,759	15,868	932,312	
Percent	14.9	29.3	6.0	9.5	38.6	1.7		100
Federal U.S. Natural Resources Con. Service U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Park Service			Municipal Municipal Park and Recreation Depts. Municipal Park and Recreation Boards City Councils Schools			Semi-Private Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Affiliates YMCA and YWCA 4-H Other special needs groups		
State Department of Natural Resources Historical Society Department of Transportation			Private Private Enterprise Individuals Churches			County County Conservation Boards		

Chart 4a

Management of Iowa's Recreation Lands

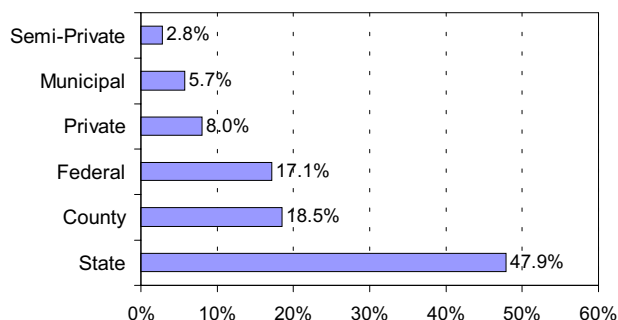
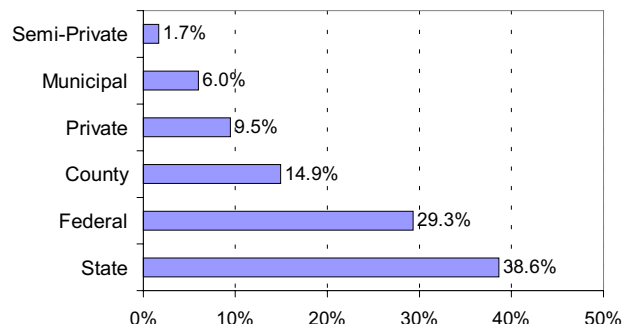


Chart 4b

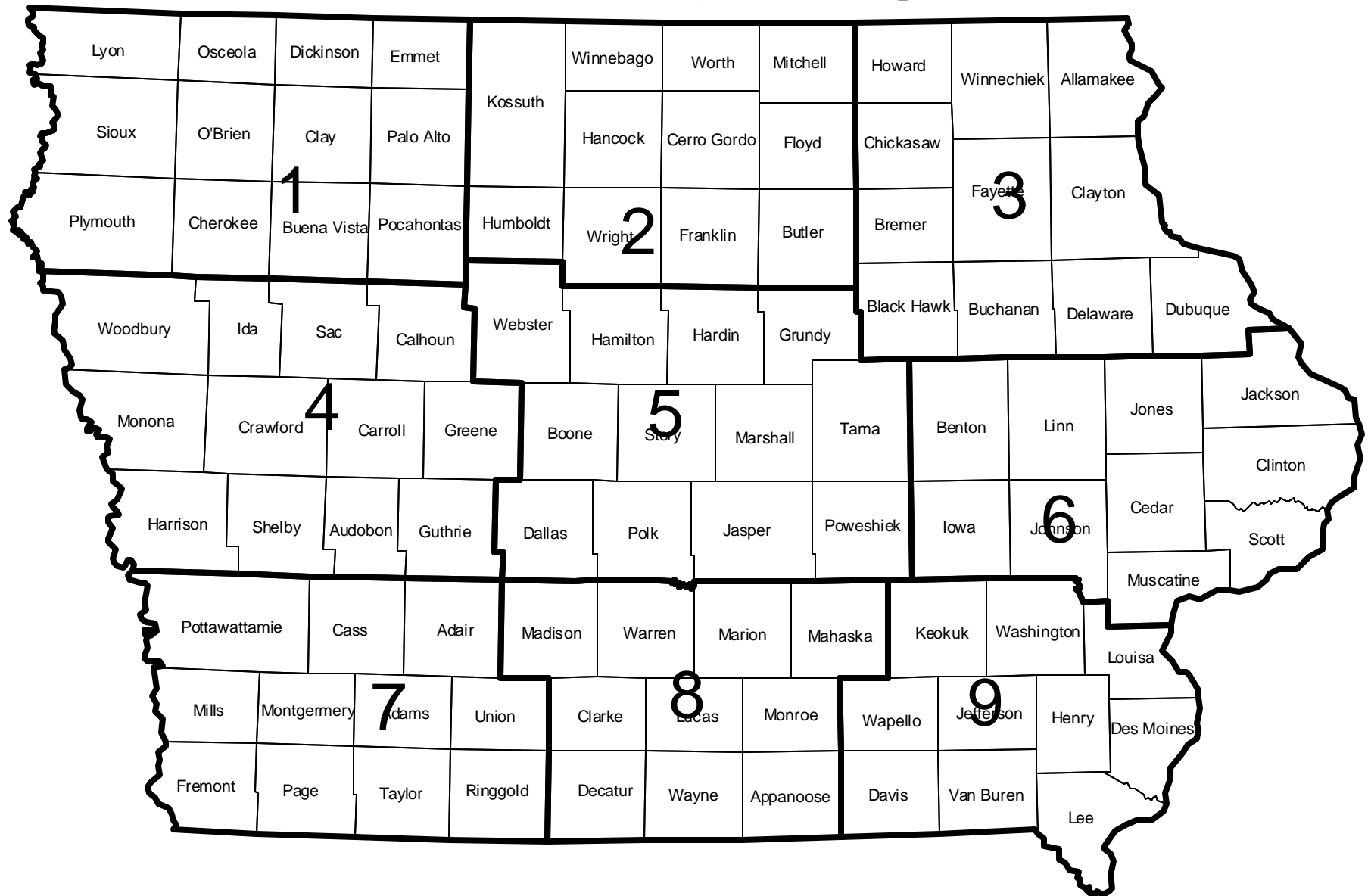
Ownership of Iowa's Recreation Lands



The ORRF inventory can be used to compare the supply of recreational facilities across the state at various levels. A printout showing the total number of facilities in the state was presented in Table 2. To show comparisons in different areas of the state, we can break down the state by planning regions (Figure 5). Table 6 shows the number of facilities in each region. These figures can be compared with the population by region figures at the bottom of the table to make comparisons between regions. Comparisons between the number of specific outdoor recreation opportunities and the population served can be made

between each region to form basic conclusions on a region's possible deficiencies. One should remember, however, that these figures cannot accurately reflect an area's specific local recreation needs. Each area has unique qualities that must be taken into account to determine actual need. For example, some areas may have landforms that are conducive to the development of outdoor recreation facilities, while other areas may offer land more susceptible to agricultural uses. The figures presented serve the purpose to display the findings of the inventory and to break the information down into regions to allow for closer analysis.

Counties by Region



Recreational Opportunities in Iowa by Region

	Table 6									
	REGION									Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Total Acres	89,586	56,639	121,951	81,832	123,467	167,059	49,563	132,768	77,902	900,767
Land Acres	46,885	38,865	116,654	66,859	108,387	126,876	38,040	94,936	62,662	700,163
Public Hunting Acres	50,956	33,806	90,790	47,940	64,859	97,963	26,163	77,499	54,251	544,226
Natural Lake Acres	30,568	5,861	1,587	4,949	391	452	1,111	149	586	45,654
Artificial Lake Acres	714	459	1,873	3,204	10,581	9,211	6,526	33,494	3,792	69,854
Natural Marsh Acres	10,216	7,739	408	5,422	602	1,050	672	377	2,053	28,539
Artificial Marsh Acres	165	3,277	1,617	1,271	1,508	14,135	1,561	1,415	7,750	32,699
River Front Miles	100	97	330	108	260	337	36	10,596	81	11,945
Boat Rental Establishments	37	23	304	13	43	54	90	451	29	1,044
Beach Front Miles	35,822	5,517	6,214	8,661	8,260	8,110	3,235	4,470	4,950	85,239
Boat Ramps	221	96	160	127	151	198	91	136	118	1,298
Dock Slips	361	155	1,390	213	827	650	179	502	574	4,851
All Trails Miles	220	193	562	455	672	540	261	355	406	3,664
Equestrian Trails Miles	91	55	143	71	217	98	63	74	105	917
Foot Trails Miles	205	228	415	312	580	393	143	315	321	2,911
Bike Trails Miles	108	135	181	180	306	169	91	96	132	1,398
Mountain Bike Trails Miles	16	89	117	21	104	30	9	13	25	424
Snowmobile Trails Miles	87	176	145	137	134	71	41	127	63	980
ATV Trails Miles	0	0	20	31	0	5	0	18	0	74
Cross County Ski Miles	122	155	223	157	319	168	78	185	155	1,560
Interpretive Facilities	35	36	45	27	263	66	22	40	27	561
Accessible Facilities	149	83	85	86	164	92	39	71	37	806
Archaeological Sites	18	8	29	5	28	21	11	10	8	138
Historical Sites	53	40	101	57	104	53	35	35	70	548
Modern Camping Units	2,094	1,269	3,009	2,104	3,663	3,604	1,337	2,205	1,701	20,986
Non-Modern Camping Units	421	610	1,760	1,257	1,297	2,566	853	1,313	975	11,052
Primitive Camping Units	181	151	686	200	613	354	166	341	249	2,941
Picnic Tables	4,389	4,274	8,913	6,707	10,070	10,298	4,505	5,361	4,118	58,635
Open Shelters	321	266	527	290	609	582	281	263	280	3,419
Enclosed Shelters	99	49	61	98	128	81	22	32	41	611
Parking Spaces	18,237	13,764	23,704	19,465	36,914	30,400	13,080	12,375	10,822	178,761
Swimming Pools	60	38	54	46	78	73	29	29	34	441
Wading Pools	44	34	31	28	78	46	18	23	16	318
Resort Rooms	3,290	816	321	231	193	92	150	57	69	5,219
Modern Cabins	191	42	155	93	195	103	52	34	78	943
Camping Cabins	6	17	3	7	21	20	17	0	5	96
Skeet Shooting Ranges	5	2	4	1	6	1	3	5	2	29
Trap Shooting Ranges	14	9	38	4	9	15	11	10	8	118
Sporting Clay Ranges	1	0	2	1	4	2	4	1	1	16
Rifle and Pistol Ranges	17	3	11	12	16	18	4	10	13	104
Archery Ranges	10	6	23	8	17	14	5	5	14	102
Softball Ranges	116	98	214	122	294	243	87	78	89	1,341
Baseball Fields	72	46	68	98	142	133	59	41	71	730
Game Courts	162	125	278	169	405	213	126	98	120	1,696
Playgrounds	292	267	459	306	561	472	246	209	306	3,118
Open Playfields	397	289	630	274	757	845	190	347	219	3,947
Tennis Courts	162	127	203	154	296	226	97	89	91	1,445
Soccer Fields	14	8	26	24	87	74	27	12	17	289
Skateboard Parks	0	3	3	2	5	3	2	2	0	20
Frisbee Golf Courses	0	0	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	8
Par 3 Courses	0	0	3	2	5	2	1	1	0	14
9 Hole Courses	52	45	50	36	47	37	21	19	21	328
18 Hole Courses	12	5	15	7	31	42	7	4	7	130
Winter Sports Areas	30	26	54	50	77	69	11	14	21	352
Ice Skating Areas	33	24	50	19	60	34	8	12	15	255
Modern Latrines	535	336	577	439	816	660	237	412	291	4,303
Pit or Vault Latrines	142	139	378	190	342	383	187	261	221	2,243
Population	186,274	178,181	370,596	234,979	653,392	600,646	186,689	154,658	211,340	2,776,755

OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEYS



Iowans have a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities to choose from in the state, and several general surveys have been conducted to determine what outdoor recreation activities Iowans prefer and how often they participate in them. Other, more specific surveys have been undertaken to gather detailed information regarding specific outdoor recreation activities. These surveys serve as a vital source in understanding attitudes and opinions toward outdoor recreation issues in Iowa. This information can be used for a variety of purposes including future outdoor recreation development and funding.

Several surveys and studies have been completed recently which assess the needs and attitudes of Iowa's recreation participants. Several of these will be briefly discussed here.

Recreational Activities & Environmental Opinions: A Statewide Survey of Adult Iowans

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources commissioned the Center for Social and Behavioral Research (CSBR) at the University of Northern Iowa to conduct a survey to assess adult Iowans' participation in outdoor recreational activities and their opinions about the protection and management of Iowa's natural resources. Specifically, the survey concentrated on assessing the respondents' views of five major content areas:

- Participation in outdoor recreational activities
- Adult and youth fishing habits
- Use of open spaces and attitudes about funding open spaces
- Opinions concerning the management and protection of Iowa's natural resources
- Characteristics of the respondents' favorite vacations
- Opinions concerning a destination park in Iowa

This study was not intended to determine the feasibility of building a destination park in Iowa. It also did not ask respondents to make relative funding decisions, such as prioritizing how funding should be distributed to manage and protect Iowa's natural resources.

The survey population consisted of adult Iowans, at least 18 years of age living in households with residential telephone lines. Using a sample of telephone numbers drawn by Genesys Sampling Systems, CSBR called a total of 5,160 telephone numbers to yield 1,203 completed interviews.

Summary and Conclusions of Findings

Nearly three-fourths of those surveyed had visited one of Iowa's state parks or recreational areas between May 1, 1999 and April 30, 2000.

The amount of time respondents reported spending on outdoor recreational activities compared to 5 years ago was:

- More now (25.9%)
- The same (40.3%)
- Less now (33.8%)

The outdoor recreational activities with the highest participation rates were:

- Picnicking (72.9%)
- Hiking or nature walks (61.1%)
- Swimming in a pool (48.4%)
- Fishing (45.3%)
- Nature studies such as bird watching (41.3%)

With the exception of picnicking, participation rates varied across age groups. Generally, participation was lower among those aged 65 or older, but nature studies such as bird watching were more common among older respondents.



One-fifth (21.3%) of those surveyed reported that their outdoor recreational activities were inhibited by limited or unsuitable recreational areas or facilities in Iowa. Commonly mentioned inhibited activities were: biking on paved trails, power boating or water skiing, hiking or nature walks, and fishing.

Approximately one-third of those surveyed were unsure of the fishing quality in Iowa's state parks and recreational areas. A similar percentage were unsure of how present fishing quality compares with that of 5 years ago.

Of those with an opinion

46.0% rated the quality of fishing in Iowa's state parks and recreational areas as good, whereas less than one-tenth (9.4%) rated it poor, 53.6% reported that the fishing quality had not changed during the past 5 years, but 32.1% reported it has improved.



Most (85.6%) of current Iowa anglers reported that they fished at least once in waterways associated with one of Iowa's state parks or recreational areas during the past year.

The majority of current Iowa anglers reported that they would visit Iowa's state parks and recreational areas more often if the fishing quality were improved:

63.0% of the anglers who had visited a park or recreational area said they would visit more often,
57.5% of the anglers who had not visited a state park or recreational area said they would visit more often.

Two-thirds (66.3%) of the households with children aged 15 or younger reported that at least one of these children fished in Iowa during the past year.

Three-fourths (74.5%) of those surveyed reported that they had visited open space areas during the past 2 years.

Open spaces were very important to quality of life according to 67.3% of the respondents.

Increased state and local government funding for the purpose of buying privately held open spaces were both supported by a majority of the respondents.

It is very important according to at least three-fourths of the respondents to spend more money to protect and manage Iowa's:

Rivers and streams (82.2%)
Lakes and shores (80.4%)
Wildlife habitats (76.3%)

There was overwhelming support (92.5%) for applying more lottery money to manage and protect Iowa's natural resources.

If a destination park were built in Iowa, 61.9% of those surveyed reported that they likely or definitely would vacation there.

The most frequently mentioned reasons why they might not vacation at a destination park were:

Do not enjoy the types of activities associated with destination park vacations
Enjoy vacationing outside of Iowa
Old age
The park would be crowded or noisy
Too busy to vacation anywhere

The five features respondents gave the highest mean importance ratings to were:

Picnic areas
Hiking or nature trails
Playgrounds
Fishing
Beaches with open water swimming

RV camping, modern cabins with electricity and plumbing, and tent camping were the highest rated accommodations.

Neither restaurants, stores for shopping, nor on-site day care were rated as very high in importance as services which should be offered at destinations parks.

Regardless of the respondents' reported likelihood of vacationing at a destination park in Iowa, there was consistent agreement about which features, accommodations, and services were important to be offered at such a park.

Conclusions



Adult Iowans report that open spaces are important to the quality of life of Iowans, and they support public ownership of these spaces. Generally, the public's opinion is that spending more money to manage and protect Iowa's natural resources is important. Several of the possible funding options that were assessed in the survey received support by a majority of the respondents. There was a high level of support for applying more of the current lottery monies for the purpose of managing and protecting Iowa's natural resources. The management of Iowa's natural resources has been part of the recent discussion regarding developing destination parks in Iowa. Although this survey was not designed to determine the feasibility of such a project, it does appear that most Iowans consider these parks as attractive potential vacation destinations.

For more detailed information on the survey contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Survey of Iowa State Park and Recreation Area Users

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources commissioned the Center for Social and Behavioral Research (CSBR) at the University of Northern Iowa to conduct a survey to assess adult Iowans' participation in outdoor recreational activities at state parks, their opinions about their state parks visits, and their attitudes regarding the state park system.

Randomly selected park visitors at 49 of Iowa's state parks and recreation areas were given questionnaires at predetermined times on three days during July 2000. The questionnaires were distributed by park personnel to visitors as they entered or exited the parks. The questionnaires could be completed and returned to park staff that day, or they could be mailed to the CSBR at the University of Northern Iowa. A total of 1,525 questionnaires were returned and processed for data analysis.

IDNR and CSBR developed the questionnaire by focusing on obtaining information that was determined to be the most beneficial for various areas of use. Questions used in the 1995 survey were also used again in order to allow comparisons between past and present park users. CSBR developed the training materials and all materials necessary to conduct the study. DNR personnel were responsible for following the research protocol and distributing the questionnaires. Questionnaires were distributed on July 11, 15, and 23. These dates were selected to increase the likelihood that the sample would be representative of Iowa's state park and recreation area users.

Over the three-day distribution period, 3,099 questionnaires were handed out with 1,525 being returned for a return rate of 49 percent.

Summary of Findings



Most park users visited the park with another person or as part of a small group. In most cases, the people in the group were immediate family members (71.3%) or friends (30.3%). The median group size, including children, was four.

One-fourth (25.0%) of the park users reported that they visit Iowa state parks at least 30 times per year.

The major factors that park users reported influenced how often they visit Iowa's state parks were the amount of leisure time they have available and the proximity of the park to their homes.

Park users had favorable impressions of the overall condition of the parks, with 95% of the park visitors giving ratings of good or excellent.

The majority of the park users reported the facilities they used were clean, and a similar percentage reported the facilities were in good structural condition.

Three-fourths (74.1%) of those who used the lakes either actively (e.g. boating) or passively (e.g. looking at it) rated the condition of the lakes as good or excellent.

Approximately one-half of the park users reported that they did not know or were uncertain about the quality of fishing at the park's lake. Of those with an opinion, 54.8% rated the fishing as fair and 25.0% rated the fishing as good.



More than two-thirds of the park users reported that they did not know or were uncertain as to how the fishing quality of the lake compared with that of 5 years ago. Of those with an opinion, 31.4% reported that it was better now and 38.8% reported that it was the same as 5 years ago.

Most park visitors reported that the park staff were available, helpful, courteous, and neatly dressed.

Maintaining the facilities in good working condition and ensuring visitor safety were the two most important duties of park staff according to the park visitors.

Past experience, scenery at the park, and the park's facilities were the major factors that influenced park users when they selected a park to visit.

The main way that park users reported learning about the park they were visiting was because they lived close to it. The second major source of information about the parks was through friends or relatives.

The park users reported that highway signs, road maps, newspaper, the Internet, and television were the five best methods for getting information about Iowa's state parks to them.

Driving through the park and general relaxation were the two most commonly engaged in activities while at the park. Picnicking, visiting with friends, hiking, and fishing were other popular activities.

Only a small percentage (3.1%) of park users participated in structured park programs, but nearly all (92.7%) of those who did so reported that it increased their enjoyment of the park.

The median amount spent during park visits was \$51.50 for the entire group. This included food, gasoline, supplies, camping fees, and all other expenses. More than one-fourth of the park visitor groups reported that they spent less than \$15.

Three-fourths (76.4%) of the park users reported that Iowa's state parks were appropriately developed.

One-third (33.2%) of park users would like to see more lakes for fishing. About 30% would like to see more overnight cabins. One-fourth (25.4%) would like to see additional swimming areas.

The greatest interest in alternative overnight options was reported for cabins with modern facilities and shoreline campgrounds.



About one-half of the park users reported that they would likely vacation at a destination park if one were built in Iowa. The reported likelihood of vacationing at a destination park was greatest among park users ages 18 through 34 and lowest among park users aged 65 or older.

Park users reported that they would most like to see cabins, facilities for expanded water activities, and eating establishments included in a destination park. With respect to activities that could be available at destination parks, park users reported that they would most like to be able to use nature trails, go fishing, swim or water park style activities, and participate in recreational activities on the open water or beaches.

Among the park users, the recreational activity with the greatest level of self-reported increase over the past 3 years was visiting public parks and campgrounds. The five activities with the largest net increase over the past 3 years (among those who participate in the activity) were visiting parks and campgrounds, trailer or vehicle camping, nature studies such as birdwatching, driving for pleasure, and powerboating.

The four recreational activities for which park users anticipate they will increase their level of participation during the next 5 years were general relaxation, visiting with friends, driving through parks, and picnicking.

Fishing in Iowa, A Survey of 1994 Iowa Anglers



A telephone survey of people with a state fishing or hunting and fishing combination license during the 1994 seasons, was conducted by the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Social and Behavioral Research for the DNR in February and March of 1995. The purpose of the survey is to provide the department with current data regarding the fishing practices and preferences of Iowa anglers. This data is then used as a management tool to identify trends of Iowa anglers.

Some of the findings from the 1995 survey results are:

1. 364,246 licensed anglers fished a total of more than 8.5 million days in 1994.
2. They averaged 24 days of fishing, catching 39.8 million fish in 1994.
3. 1994 anglers preferred to fish for catfish or large mouth bass.
4. More than 1 in 3 anglers indicated that catching and releasing was a very important outcome when fishing.
5. Over half of 1994 anglers believe water quality and quality of fish habitat are factors that most impact state fish populations.
6. Poor water quality was the most frequently attributed reason in 1994 for any decline in fishing quality.

7. Over 70% of 1994 anglers reported that the quality of fishing had stayed the same or improved in the last 10 years.
8. Slightly over 40% of 1994 anglers reported they fished less often now than a decade ago, citing as the major reason, lack of time.

For more information on this survey, contact the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sponsored the completion of this survey. The 1996 survey is the ninth in a series of surveys on resource use by anglers, hunters, and those who enjoy observing wildlife. The purpose of the Survey is to gather information on the number of anglers, hunters, and wildlife-watching participants in the United States. Information also is collected on how often these recreationists participate and how much they spend on their activities. The information collected is reported nationally as well as in individual state supplements.

The 1996 Survey revealed that more than 1 million Iowa residents 16 years old and older engaged in fishing, hunting, or wildlife-watching activities. Of the total number of participants, 51% fished, 30 % hunted, and 83 % participated in wildlife-watching activities where the enjoyment of wildlife was the primary purpose of the activity. Wildlife-watching activities included observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife.

The sum of anglers, hunters and wildlife-watching participants exceeds the total number of participants in wildlife-related recreation because many individuals engaged in more than one wildlife-related activity.

In 1996, state residents and non-residents spent \$877 million on wildlife-associated recreation in Iowa. Of that total, trip related expenditures were \$237 million and equipment purchases totaled \$526 million. The remaining \$114 million was spent on licenses, contributions, land ownership and leasing, and other items and services.

For more information on this survey and the Iowa Supplement, contact the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Outdoor Recreation in American Life: A National Assessment of Demand and Supply Trends



This is a very comprehensive national study of outdoor recreation published in 1999. The Principal Investigator of the study was H. Ken Cordell; however, several authors and agencies contributed. The study overviews the national demand and supply trends, the current situation and likely futures of outdoor recreation and wilderness, as these trends and futures are affected by rapid social, technological and economic change.

Some general findings that the report discusses in detail are as follows:

- Wilderness Benefits are Expanding
- The Outdoor Recreation Market is Expected to Continue to Grow
- Access to the Private Land Base for Recreation Continues to Decline
- Increased Demand for Nearby Recreation Resources
- Resource Changes Have not Been Equal Across Regions or Settings

The survey also makes several more specific observations of the following topics: Access, Resource Impacts, Management Evolution, Benefits-based Management, Improved Data, Better Understanding the Enthusiasts, Collaboration, and The Underserved.

The report is an excellent resource of national outdoor recreation issues and should be viewed by all involved in outdoor recreation planning and development. For information on how to obtain a copy of the report, contact Sagamore Publishing at www.sagamorepub.com.

IOWA TOURISM



The Iowa Department of Economic Development (DED) has had numerous surveys and reports completed detailing tourism and its impact on the Iowa economy. Travel and tourism in Iowa equates to a substantial economic boon through dollars spent, jobs created and tax revenues collected. These effects are felt throughout the state. Much of this visitation to and within the state relates directly to the outdoor recreation opportunities Iowa provides.

DED has prepared or has contracted to have prepared the following reports/surveys dealing with Iowa tourism: The Economic Impact of Travel on Iowa Counties, 2000 Iowa Welcome Center Survey and Longwood's International. Each of these reports documents the purpose, destination and the benefit to Iowa's economy that results from those traveling within, to and through the State of Iowa.

Economic Impact of Travel on Iowa Counties

Based on the 1999 study prepared for the Iowa Division of Tourism by the U.S. Travel Data Center, \$4 billion was spent in Iowa for transportation, lodging, food, entertainment, recreation and incidentals by U.S. resident travelers. This figure may be somewhat conservative for the following reasons. Due to the restrictions of the definition of "traveler", many dollars spent were excluded from the study. Expenditures in anticipation of a trip on goods and services cannot be accurately quantified, thus are not included. Examples may include, tennis lessons, tennis racquets, travel books, language lessons, etc. Also excluded, is the purchase of some major consumer durable goods such as boats, boating supplies, off-road vehicles, etc. Recreational vehicles such as campers, motor homes, trailers and mobile homes, however, are included in the figures presented in the report.

Payroll (wages and salary) paid by Iowa travel-related firms and directly attributable to traveler spending totaled \$835 million, an increase of 4.4 percent from the previous year.

One of the most important benefits of travel and tourism is the employment which this activity supports. Travel creates jobs for individuals within communities by attracting money from outside the community. Due to the diversity of spending while traveling, a wide variety of jobs at every skill level are created. Total estimated payroll was \$835 million in 1999. Travel-generated employment in Iowa was highest in the food service and entertainment and recreation industries.

Another benefit of travel and tourism is the tax revenues generated. Travel-generated tax revenues at the state and local levels raised nearly \$311 million in 1999.

2000 Iowa Welcome Center Survey

Iowa has 23 welcome centers to provide tourism information and assist travelers with their questions on Iowa.

Guest books were placed in all centers and every 46th travel party registering was personally interviewed by the staff. 5,139 travel parties were interviewed. Of the travel parties interviewed, 47% came from the target markets of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Of total trip time, respondents were planning to spend 3.9 days in Iowa. Motels were the most frequently used overnight accommodation with state, county and private campgrounds the second most common.

Average daily expenditures were \$165.79. Lodging, food and transportation were the three greatest reasons for daily expenditures. From simple multiplication of average trip length in Iowa and average daily expenditures, it can be determined that the average travel party spent nearly \$846 daily in Iowa. When taking into account the money multiplier effect for travel-related expenditures, over \$159 million impacted the Iowa economy from those persons interviewed at the Welcome Centers.

Each welcome center is supplied with a number of informative pamphlets about places to see, facilities, events taking place, etc. When asked if their length of stay would increase because of the information received, over 34 percent indicated their stay in Iowa would be extended.

Probably the most interesting information coming from the welcome center survey from an outdoor recreation perspective, is the interest areas for traveling. Respondents were asked to give their first, second and third area of interest for traveling the State of Iowa, the following table shows the results.

2000 Iowa Welcome Center Survey Interest Areas For Traveling

Sight-seeing	54.2%
Historic	42.1%
Friends/Family	39.6%
Scenic Byways	30.2%
Museums	21.9%
Shopping	19.7%
Camping	19.4%
Festivals	17.7%
Ethnic	12.2%
Casinos	11.2%
Boating	5.6%
Other	8.5%

Iowa's Position in the U.S. Touring Vacation Market

This report was prepared for the Department of Economic Development by Longwood's International and aimed at showing ways to increase Iowa's share of the vacation market. The report showed that special events and touring trips were Iowa's most important marketable segments.

The states that make up Iowa's biggest touring vacationers include Iowa itself, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri and Nebraska. Overall, Iowa's major image strength in the eyes of American touring vacationers in general is that Iowa is seen as more hospitable than the average American touring destination. It was the hospitality image strength that was used to develop the new tourism theme "IOWA Come Be Our Guest"®.

In terms of outdoor sports and recreation activities, visitors rate Iowa higher for: golf, fishing and hunting and camping than the average destination. When comparing U.S. and Iowa activities while on vacations, the participation percentages of vacationers in Iowa were higher in such outdoor recreation activities as camping, fishing, hunting and golfing in Iowa than the participation percentages nationally. Participation was slightly lower in Iowa for such activities as boating/watersports, viewing wildlife/birds, swimming and snowskiing.

As the Longwood's International report indicates, Iowa has many outdoor recreation opportunities that are utilized by Iowans and by touring vacationers.

Iowa Trails 2000



A state trails plan should provide a framework for the implementation of trail initiatives throughout the state. The Iowa Department of Transportation along with other state agencies and individuals, developed Iowa Trails 2000 to do this by offering resources and recommendations to

trail planners and implementers, including state agencies, local organizations, regional governments, county conservation boards, and nonprofit organizations. Iowa Trails 2000 was directed at the following goals:

- Setting forth a framework for subsequent trails system planning by a variety of agencies and jurisdictions.
- Offering valuable resources to trail implementers, which can be used to implement either mode-specific or regional trails plans.
- Involving the public in the trail planning process in a variety of ways, including open houses, exhibits, newsletters, and an Iowa Trails Web site.
- Providing local communities an understanding of the benefits of trails, a valuable tool for local trail planning and implementation efforts.
- Establishing design guidelines for all trail modes, to encourage consistency in quality and design of trails statewide.
- Considering the benefits of trails as both recreation and transportation amenities.

These goals are the driving force behind Iowa Trails 2000. The statewide trails vision set forth in the document will be implemented by state, regional, and local efforts. By setting forth a variety of guidelines and policies, and by including a statewide vision map, Iowa Trails 2000 encourages and facilitates the implementation of trails in a variety of ways.

Iowa Trails 2000 outlines many aspects of trail development including: Needs and Benefits, the Statewide Trails Vision, Design Guidelines, Cost Analysis, Implementing the Vision, Operations and Maintenance, and Recommendations. There are six recommendations that are designed to accomplish the goals of the statewide trails vision for Iowa: The headings for each recommendation are as follows: 1) Increase Funding for Trail Projects, 2) Establish a Trails Advisory Group, 3) Increase Rate of Trails Development, 4) More Proactive Role by State Agencies, 5) Subsequent Trails System Plans, and 6) Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation.

For more information on the Iowa Trails 2000 document, contact the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Outdoor Recreation Providers and Programs

2001 Iowa SCORP

An outline map of the state of Iowa is positioned behind the text "2001 Iowa SCORP". The map shows the state's borders and is centered horizontally behind the text.

PARTNERING WITH OTHERS

The DNR administers several outdoor recreation grant programs. Through these programs, the DNR is able to work with federal agencies, other state agencies, local governments, and public and private organizations as well. Working with others, outside of its own agency, has allowed the DNR to form several successful partnerships. Partnerships are essential when providing for outdoor recreation opportunities. The DNR understands that working together to provide outdoor recreation benefits all of Iowa.

The mission for the Parks, Recreation, and Preserves Division of the DNR states, "Providing leadership in outdoor recreation through good management, planning services, grant programs and other services."

Outdoor recreation grant programs administered by the DNR include:

Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program
Land and Water Conservation Fund
Resource, Enhancement, and Protection (REAP)
Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant Program
Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program
All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Program
Snowmobile Trail Grant Program

The grant programs listed above are community based, meaning that assistance is available to cities, counties, and non-profit organizations and associations in the State of Iowa. Most programs require the applicant to cost share a portion of the project costs; the percentage required is program specific. Each program also has its own areas where funds are intended to be used, and careful consideration should be taken to ensure that a project fits the intent of the grant program being applied for. A brief explanation and a contact for each program listed

above can be found on page 36-41 of this document. All recreation grant programs administered by the DNR have been designed to address the mission and vision of the DNR while at the same time addressing the needs of the applicants. This approach provides benefits at local and statewide levels. Priority is based on SCORP priorities and criteria and goals that are program specific. These areas include, but are not limited to, public demand and need, quality of site or project, urgency of proposed project, multiple benefits, and conformance with local/regional and statewide plans. These are all typical areas that need to be addressed when applying for funds. Geographic distribution can also be an important factor. Efforts are taken to address recreational needs on the basis of location to ensure that all areas have access to grants to improve their recreational opportunities. Another very important factor to consider when applying for some grant funds is public/private participation. Extra consideration may also be given to projects that have contributions and benefits that extend beyond the community.

Land and Water Conservation Fund in Iowa

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federally funded program that creates partnerships at many levels. The funds are allocated to states to administer in the form of grants available to local governments (cities and counties). Private agencies and citizens often play a significant role in LWCF projects. Many partnerships are needed in order to realize successful projects through the LWCF program.

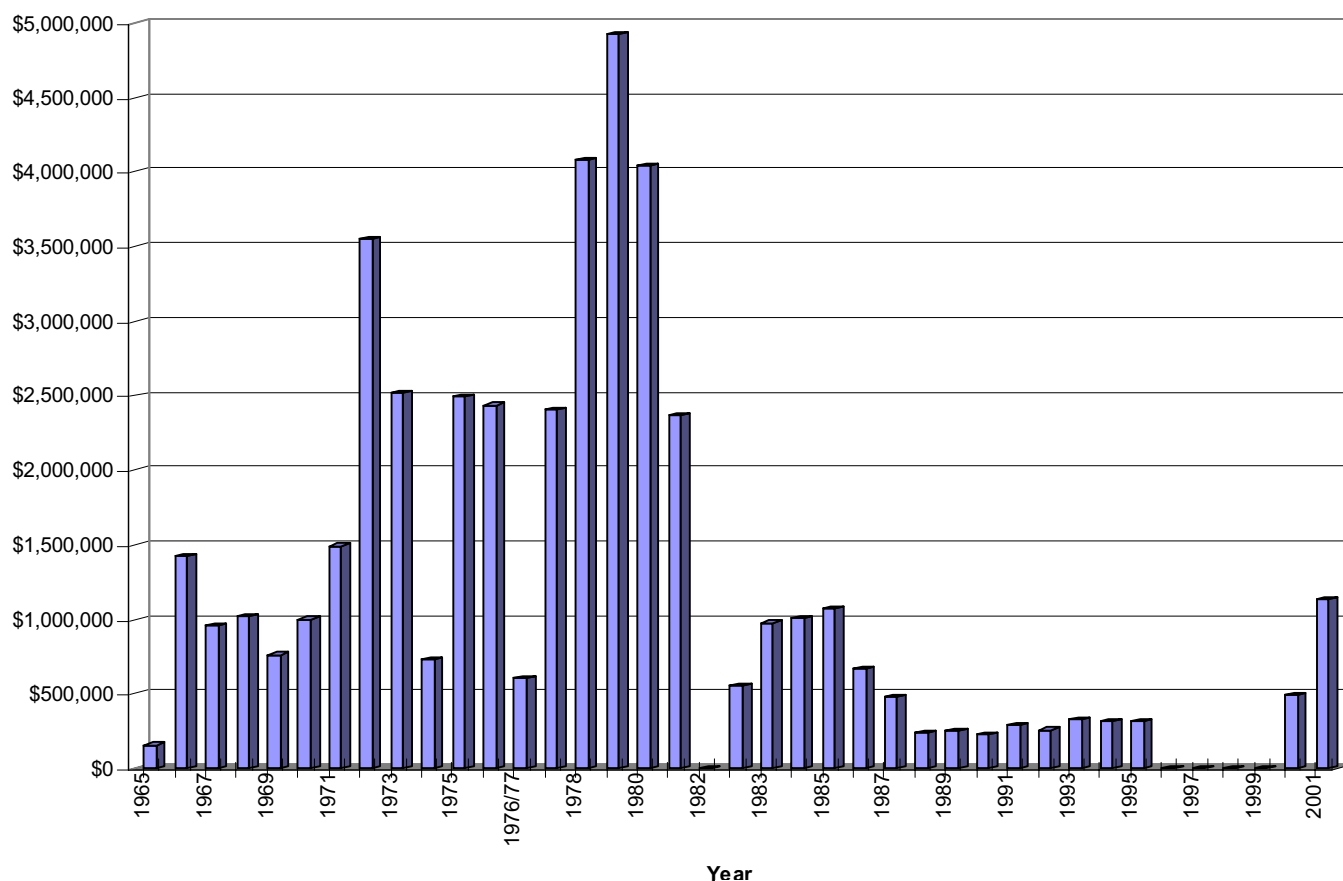
The LWCF program has provided very diverse benefits in its 35-year history in Iowa. The program provides up to 50% funding assistance and has funded projects ranging from land acquisition to park development and renovation to planning grants. The Table below shows the Iowa LWCF project summary from 1965 to 2001.

Number of Projects Funded by Jurisdiction and Project Type

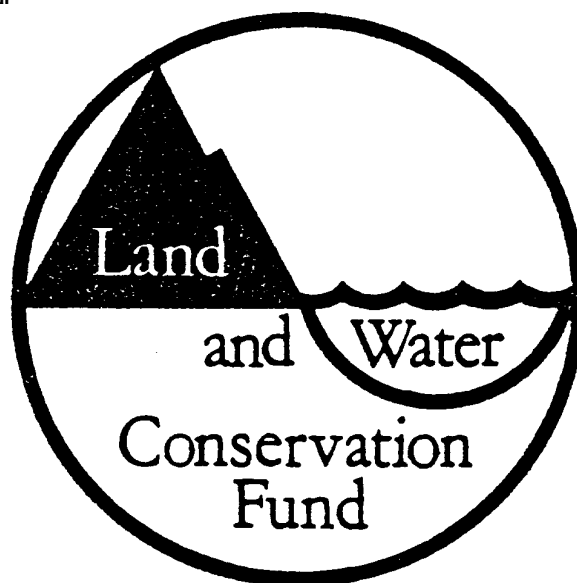
	Local	County	State
Acquisition	52	147	60
Development	458	207	74
Renovation	21	1	3
Acquisition and Development	50	22	2
Development and Renovation	7	3	4
Planning Grants	0	0	7
Total	588	380	150

From 1965 to 1995, the LWCF was an annual source of recreation funding for local governments in Iowa. The program did, however, experience a decline of funding available during the eighties and early nineties and eventually there were no funds available through the program from 1996 to 1999. After four years with no funding available through the LWCF, there were once again funds allocated in 2000. The following chart displays a summary of the amount of funds allocated from 1965 to 2001.

Iowa LWCF Apportionments 1965-2000



The chart plainly shows that funding through the LWCF has varied widely. During the late 1970's and early 1980's, appropriations to the State of Iowa ranged from \$2.4 million to nearly \$5 million. From 1990 to 2001, the largest apportionment was in 2001 at \$1,129,401. From 1996 to 1999 there were no LWCF allocations and during that time, it was unknown whether funding would become available again. In 2000, funds were once again allocated through the program. The future of the program is still uncertain. Several initiatives have been proposed which would reinstate the LWCF for the states with significant changes to the program possible.



IOWA DNR OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAMS

The Iowa DNR has over 80 state parks and recreation areas where visitors can enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities. The Iowa DNR also has 90 state preserves totaling over 9,300 acres of land showcasing Iowa in its natural state. Although the State of Iowa provides numerous excellent outdoor recreation opportunities, the State also understands the importance of outdoor recreation opportunities at the local level. A reflection of this understanding is displayed through the various outdoor recreation grant opportunities administered by the DNR and available to local governments and public organizations. The Iowa Legislature established many of these grant programs in response to specific outdoor recreation needs. Many groups and organizations had a hand in developing the grant programs by working with the Department in the development of administrative rules. Their efforts help to inform the Legislature and the DNR of outdoor recreation needs and also help shape the specifics of each grant program.

The grant programs administered by the Iowa DNR provide funds for a wide variety of outdoor recreation needs. The main purposes of the programs are to acquire land and develop facilities. Acquisition can be for the purpose of preservation or for providing an area for recreational development to occur. Development activities range from improving and updating existing facilities to constructing new facilities. Whatever the scope of the project, the goal is to meet needs and changing trends in recreation.

Following is a brief synopsis of each relevant grant program administered by the Iowa DNR.



Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program (RIG)

The RIG program is a result of the Iowa Legislative Recreation Summit that was held in 1997. The Iowa General Assembly appropriates funds to the Iowa DNR to assist in the renovation, repair, or new construction of public recreation facilities and recreation trails through the "Rebuild Iowa's Infrastructure Fund".

The RIG program provides state financial assistance to cities, counties, organizations and associations in the State of Iowa for the purpose of acquisition, repair, renovation and development of public recreation complexes and trails. Special consideration is given to projects that involve public and private sector participation. Funds are provided in the form of grants covering one-third of total eligible project costs.

For more information on the Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program contact Arnie Sohn, Bureau Chief, Parks, Recreation and Preserves Division, at 515/281-5814.

Note: RIG funding was suspended for fiscal year 2001.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF), signed into law September 4, 1964, provides federal financial assistance to the State of Iowa and political subdivisions for the purpose of acquisition and/or development of land for outdoor recreation. The LWCF program is administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the program at the state level.

Funds are provided to the states and passed to political subdivisions in the form of 50 percent reimbursement grants. Reimbursements are made on all eligible expenditures up to the amount of the approved grant. Financial assistance through the LWCF is authorized through the year 2014. See page 34 for a more detailed description of the LWCF in Iowa.

For more information on the Land and Water Conservation Fund contact Arnie Sohn, Bureau Chief, Parks, Recreation and Preserves Division, at 515/281-5814.

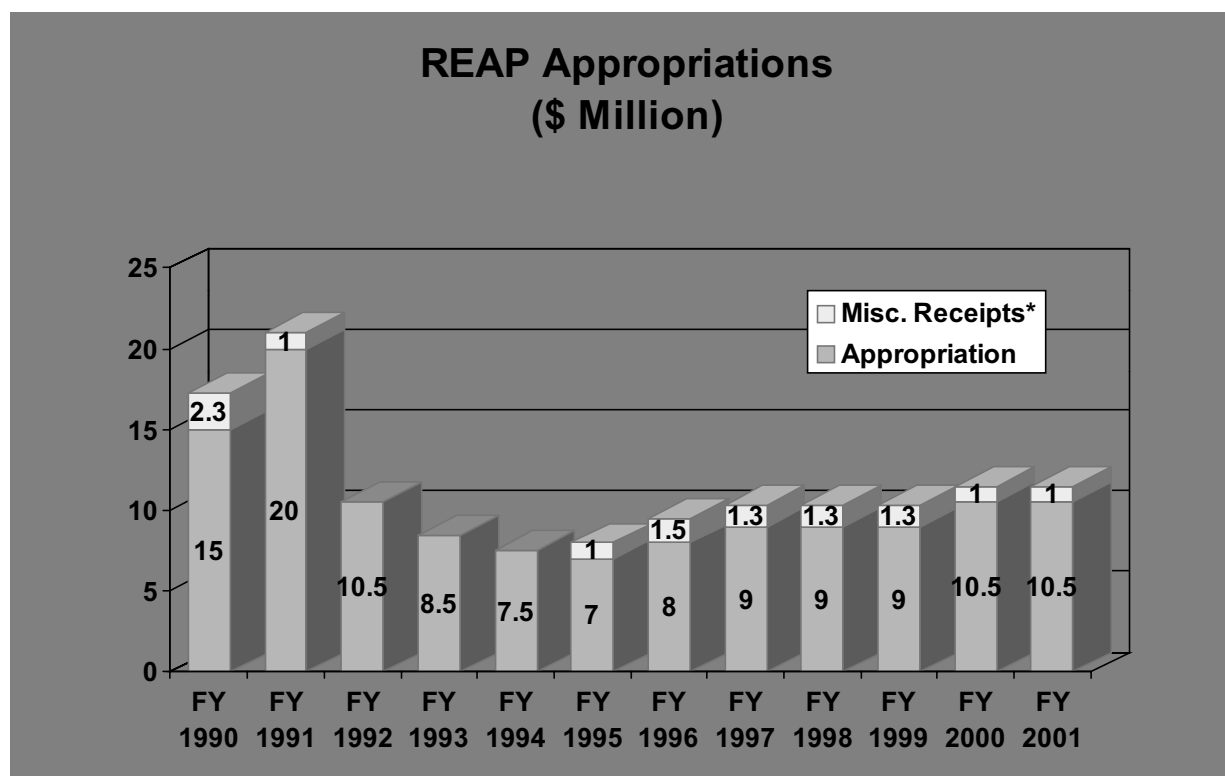
Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)

REAP is a major investment by the State of Iowa in its natural and cultural resources. Iowa is blessed with a diverse array of natural and cultural resources, and REAP is likewise diverse and far-reaching. Depending on the individual programs, REAP provides money for projects through agency budgets or in the form of grants. Several aspects of REAP encourage private contributions to help accomplish program objectives.

The following excerpt from the Code of Iowa sets the state's resource enhancement policy:

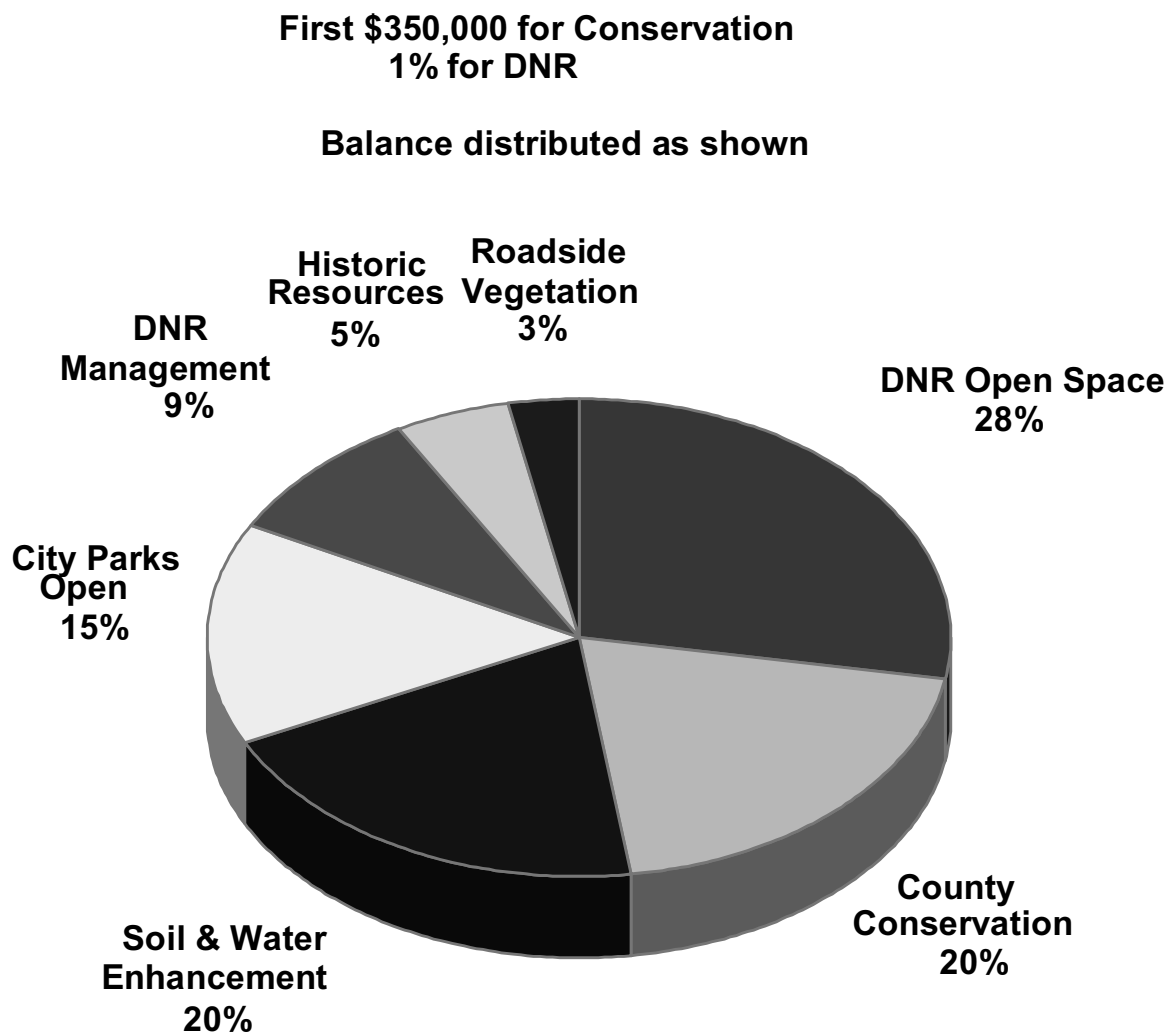
"It is the policy of the state of Iowa to protect its natural resource heritage of air, soils, waters, and wildlife for the benefit of present and future citizens with the establishment of a resource enhancement program. The program shall be a long-term integrated effort to wisely use and protect Iowa's natural resources through the acquisition and management of public lands; the upgrading of public park and preserve facilities; environmental education, monitoring, and research; and other environmentally sound means. The resource enhancement program shall strongly encourage Iowans to develop a conservation ethic, and to make necessary changes in our activities to develop and preserve a rich and diverse natural environment" (Chapter 455A.16, Code of Iowa).

REAP was originally authorized in 1989 for \$30 million per year for ten years. The state legislature in 1996 changed the authorization to \$20 million per year and extended the program's life to 2021. REAP is funded by the state's general fund and receipts from the sale of natural resource license plates. The REAP account is also allowed to keep any interest that it earns. The state legislature sets the amount of REAP funding every year. The program has never received its fully authorized annual amount. Its funding peaked in 1991 at \$20 million at a time when it was authorized for a maximum of \$30 million. Since that time, it has been receiving approximately half the authorized amount. The chart shown below presents the program's funding history.



* Miscellaneous receipts include Park User Fee Account transfer (FY 1990), Interest (FY 1990, 1991, 1995 -2001), and Natural Resource License Plate (FY 1995 - 2001).

REAP funds go into eight different programs based upon percentages that are specified in the law. These percentages are shown in the following pie chart.



The following are short descriptions of the REAP programs and identification of the state agency that is responsible for each one.

Program	Responsible Agency	Description
Conservation Education	Department of Education	Competitive grants for continuing education workshops and developing conservation education material and curriculums.
DNR Administration	Department of Natural Resources	Funds available to DNR to help defray costs of administering REAP.
Open Space	Department of Natural Resources	Land acquisition and facility developments to expand state-managed public recreation opportunities and to accomplish resource protection and enhancement. One-tenth of allocation is set aside to cost share projects with private organizations and individuals. One-twentieth of the allocation is specified for Iowa's Protected Water Areas Program.
County Conservation	Department of Natural Resources	Allocations to all of Iowa's 99 county conservation boards and availability of competitive grants for land acquisition, facility developments, and conservation programs.
Soil and Water Enhancement	Division of Soil Conservation, Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	Allocations to all of Iowa's 100 soil and water conservation districts and availability of competitive grants for soil conservation projects and practices that emphasize improving the quality of surface and ground water.
City Parks and Open Space	Department of Natural Resources	Competitive grants available to all cities for land acquisition and facility development to expand city parks and open space opportunities. Athletic complexes, swimming pools, and golf courses are not eligible for grant money.
State Land Management	Department of Natural Resources	Funds available to DNR for development and management of existing state conservation and recreation land. Most of the money is used for infrastructure in state parks.
Historical Resources Development Program	State Historical Society, Department of Cultural Affairs	Competitive grants available for historical preservation, library and archives, and museum projects.
Roadside Vegetation	Department of Transportation	Competitive grants available to cities, counties, and state agencies for establishing and maintaining native grasses and flowers along public roadways.

Public Participation – REAP contains very extensive public participation procedures that are directed in the state law. Individual county REAP committees are organized throughout the state. Public and private organizations interested in REAP participate on county committees. The primary purposes of these committees are to coordinate REAP projects among the various entities and to prepare a county REAP plan to help guide future local REAP projects.

The next level of public participation is regional REAP assemblies. These are open public meetings where all REAP programs and projects are presented. Opportunities are also available for the public to make recommendations on changes to REAP policies, programs, and funding. The assemblies are held every even-numbered calendar year and involve seventeen public meetings held throughout the state.

The next and final level is the REAP Congress. Five delegates are elected at each of the seventeen assemblies to serve on the statewide Congress, which make a total of 85 participants. The REAP Congress meets during the summer of even-numbered calendar years. Its responsibilities are to organize, discuss, and make recommendations to the Governor, state legislature, and state agencies. The Congress uses the suggestions made at the seventeen assemblies to help form its recommendations.

Wildlife Habitat Fee Grant Program

In 1979, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation requiring hunters and trappers (except residents who are handicapped or who are younger than sixteen or older than sixty-five years of age) to purchase a wildlife habitat stamp. The stamp was later eliminated but the requirement to pay a habitat fee remained. All revenue derived from the habitat fee shall be used within the state of Iowa for acquisition of land, or obtaining easements from willing sellers for use as wildlife habitats and for the development and enhancement of wildlife lands and habitat areas.

Approximately 240,000 hunters and trappers pay the habitat fee annually, generating \$1.2 million. The funds are divided with half the funds, approximately \$600,000, dedicated to state projects and the other half to be used by county conservation boards for habitat acquisition and development. The county funds are distributed through a competitive grant program. The State will provide 75% of funds while the county must match with 25% local funds. The local match can come from the county or other groups such as Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Wild Turkey Federation, etc... The county conservation portion of this fund has been used to purchase 30,000 acres since the grant program began in 1980.

The majority of funds dedicated to the state are used to expand large public wildlife areas in Iowa, and has resulted in the acquisition of over 20,000 acres. A portion of the state funding (approximately \$80,000) is used for cost-share programs on private lands such as the establish-

ment of 8-16 row shelterbelts. Approximately \$70,000 from the fund is used to reimburse property taxes to counties in which state land has been purchased with Habitat Stamp funding.

Applications for funds are reviewed and selected for funding during January and July of each year.

For more information on the Wildlife Habitat Fee Grant Program contact Dale Garner, Executive Officer 2, at 515/281-4815.

Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program



The Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program is a high priority within the DNR. The intent of this program is to improve existing access areas and acquire and develop additional public access areas on Iowa waters. Long range plans for

public access to Iowa waters call for at least one public access for every five river miles, and access to public lakes is needed. The Iowa Marine Fuel Tax Fund provides the primary funding source to carry out this program. Federal Sport Fish Restoration funds are also used to provide matching funds to these state monies.

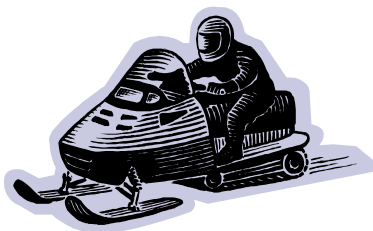
The DNR also administers a cost-share program to fund water access developments jointly with political subdivisions. Iowa Marine Fuel Tax dollars are used to fund 75% to 100% of the cost of these projects. Chapter 71-30 of the Iowa Administrative Code provides details of the cost-share program.

The Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program includes both acquisition of land and development phases for projects. Included in water access development projects are roads, parking areas, boat ramps, docks, lighting, restrooms, and other facilities and improvements needed to enhance access to water-related recreational activities. Sport Fish Restoration Funds are used to maintain many state owned ramps and accesses.

The Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program Committee uses Fisheries Bureau supervisors located around the state as the field liaison to recommend priorities for projects, classed either as new access areas or improvements to existing access areas. The DNR may enter into appropriate 28E or other management agreements with local sponsors, primarily county conservation boards, to operate and maintain many of the access areas.

Snowmobile and All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Programs

Snowmobile Trail Grant Program



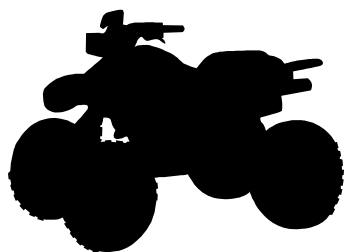
In 1970, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation that established a state snowmobile law and registration fee. The legislation was encouraged by

the snowmobilers of Iowa as well as the State Conservation Commission (now the Iowa Department of Natural Resources) and provided funds to begin developing a public snowmobile system in Iowa.

The Snowmobile Trail Grant Program provides up to 100% grants for the acquisition of land, development and maintenance of snowmobile trails as well as appropriate facilities, all intended for public use.

Snowmobile Trail Grant Program applications are due by July 1 or the closest business day of each year.

All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Program



On January 1, 1990, a \$26 biennial registration fee was instituted. These fees are placed in a dedicated account and are used to fund and administer the All-Terrain

Vehicle Trail Grant Program. The All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Program provides 100% grants to communities, counties, organizations or associations for maintaining and developing ATV trails. Where appropriate, funds can also be used for development expenses including acquiring land to be used by the public for ATV riding.

Iowa currently has four areas that have been designated for public ATV use. The Motorcycle Industry Councils Retail Sales Report demonstrates the sports increasing popularity; ATV sales in Iowa increased 176% from 1995 through 2000. The number of registered machines in the state and the revenues derived from these fees have mirrored the increased sales.

Applications for funds for the All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Program are due on April 1 or October 1 or the closest business day of each year.

To receive an application or for more information on the Snowmobile and All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Grant Programs contact Tony Toigo, ATV and Snowmobile Program Coordinator, at 515/281-6101.

OTHER PROVIDERS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

No single entity or level of government in Iowa comes close to providing all the diverse outdoor recreational resources, facilities and programs required to offer Iowans the full range of recreational options which they need and desire. The framework of institutions, each serving a portion of the public's need, is a complex one having evolved over time in response to public needs, resource management requirements, legislative direction, profit motivation, and many other complex economic and social factors.

These public and private institutions are the delivery system for outdoor recreation in Iowa. They have the responsibility to provide recreating Iowans with high quality recreational opportunities. As such, they are an integral part of the supply side of the balance between recreational demand and supply. Each is discussed briefly in the following paragraphs, along with a point of contact should the reader desire more information.

Federal Agencies and Their Involvement in Iowa Recreation Issues

I. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Briefly, the Corps of Engineers manages:



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

* The four major flood control reservoirs in Iowa:

1. Coralville (Rock Island District)
2. Saylorville (Rock Island District)
3. Red Rock (Rock Island District)
4. Rathbun (Kansas City District)

* The Mississippi River Environmental Management Program

* The Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project.

Management responsibilities include major recreational developments. The Corps of Engineers also has permitting authority relative to construction projects on navigable streams and to wetland drainage projects under Section

404. Impacts of Corps developments are substantial, and indirect impacts stemming from the exercise of permit authority can produce substantial positive or negative impacts as well.

The Corps of Engineers also administers the Des Moines Recreation River and Greenbelt and a portion of the Saylorville Trail Corridor extending from the Saylorville Reservoir through the City of Des Moines.

Primary Contacts: District Engineers as follows:

Kansas City District (Lake Rathbun)
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
816/983-3415

St. Paul District (Pools 9 and 10, Mississippi River)
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
651/290-5200

Omaha District (Missouri River)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
402/221-3916

Rock Island District (Pools 11 through 19, Des Moines Recreational River and Greenbelt and Saylorville, Red Rock and Coralville Lake)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island, Illinois 61204
309/794-5274

II. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)



This federal agency manages wildlife refuge lands in Iowa, including DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in Harrison County, Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge in Kossuth County, Mark Twain Wildlife Refuge in Louisa County, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge and Prairie

Learning Center in Jasper County and the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge on the Mississippi River in northeastern Iowa.

The USFWS has as its primary charge the management of wildlife habitats and the perpetuation of spe-

cies dependent on those habitats. Recreation benefits are an important but secondary purpose. The Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is unique in that its primary purpose is the re-establishment of several thousand acres of tall grass prairie and savanna, and a broad educational program on Iowa's prairie heritage.

The USFWS also serves a major role in the review and development of wildlife mitigation recommendations on a variety of state and federal projects.

Primary Contact:

William Hartwig, Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office
BHW Federal Building
Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111
612/713-5360

III. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture (NRCS)



The NRCS has as its primary role the planning and development of programs and practices aimed at controlling soil erosion. Control of soil erosion will improve water

quality and lengthen the useful life of public lakes and other bodies of water.

Additionally, the NRCS has constructed high quality, multipurpose lakes under its P.L. 566 program, with others in the planning stages. Field staff (district conservationists) regularly assist public recreation resource managers in developing soil conservation plans for public lands, and are also instrumental in implementing soil erosion control practices on private lands within the watersheds of publicly owned lakes. Such efforts enhance fishery and wildlife habitats as well as extending the useful life of impoundments thereby substantially increasing recreational benefits.

Primary Contact:

Leroy Brown
State Conservationist, NRCS
Federal Building
210 Walnut
693 Federal Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
319/284-4260

IV. National Park Service



This federal agency manages two sites in Iowa, Effigy Mounds National Monument in Allamakee County and the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch (Cedar County).

The Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska is responsible for the administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program. The LWCF program is a federal grants cost-sharing program providing grants to state and local governments to help them acquire, develop and improve outdoor recreation areas.

Primary Contact:

William W. Schenk, Regional Director
National Park Service
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
402/221-3471

State Agencies and Their Involvement in Iowa Recreation Issues

I. Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)



The DNR is the primary provider of state-owned and state-managed recreational areas and facilities in Iowa. In total, the agency manages more than

80 park and recreation areas, 11 state forest areas, 340 wildlife management areas, and 35 waterfowl refuges. Additionally, fisheries managers are responsible for 36 natural lakes, over 200 man-made lakes, and are instrumental in fish rearing and stocking practices on 49 north-east Iowa trout streams and in some 300 farm ponds each year. The Environmental Protection Division of the DNR deals with floodplain construction regulations, air quality, and water quality improvement programs. The Energy and Geological Resources Division manages the State energy, geological and water resources by providing public policy, developing renewable energy resources, educating and assisting the public on energy conservation measures, serving as the principal repository for all geological and hydrological data and providing information on the availability and accessi-

bility of water and mineral resources. The Waste Management Division deals with long-term management of solid and hazardous wastes that affect Iowa's water, soil, and air quality.

The DNR is involved either directly or indirectly with all other federal, state, county, local and private recreation providers and is the principal contact for additional information on virtually any recreation and resource management topic. A brief description of recreational grant opportunities administered by the DNR can be found beginning on page 36.

Primary Contact:

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515/281-5385

II. Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)



IDALS is directly involved in resource management programs which affect outdoor recreation through enactment of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act. One aspect of the multi-million dollar REAP program is the Soil and Water Enhance-

ment Account. This account receives 20% of REAP appropriations each year through the year 2001. Funds are available to landowners for soil and water conservation and enhancement projects and practices. Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation Districts and cooperating agencies have had a positive impact on developing and implementing water quality protection projects. Financial resources are authorized to support administrative, operational and personnel costs to implement projects. Districts have expanded their traditional erosion control programs to address the broader spectrum of agricultural, nonpoint source pollution and other water quality problems. Districts have also expanded their local working partnerships to bring together all resources necessary to address the identified problems.

Grant applications and program information are available at any of Iowa's 100 Soil Conservation District offices, normally located in county seats, or through the Des Moines DALS office.

Primary Contact:

James Gulliford, Director
Division of Soil Conservation
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515/281-7043 or 281-6148

III. Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

The State Historical Society of Iowa and the Iowa Arts Council are divisions of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. The Historical Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs became involved in the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program in 1989. One REAP program, administered by the Historical Division, is the Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP). Grants are available to individuals and businesses, as well as to non-profit organizations and agencies of Certified Local Governments. Certified Local Governments is a designation made by the National Park Service.

Grants awarded in this account support a wide variety of projects, ranging from conservation of photographs to preservation of buildings, from museum exhibits to newspaper microfilming. The REAP Historical Resource Development Program receives 5% each year of the annual REAP appropriation.

Primary Contact:

Lavon Grimes, REAP/HRDP Coordinator
State Historical Society of Iowa
600 East Locust
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515/242-6194

IV. Iowa Department of Transportation



**Iowa Department
of Transportation**

The Iowa DOT is responsible for and offers many grant opportunities for outdoor recreational pursuits. Three of these programs are outlined below:

Living Roadway Trust Fund

The Resource Enhancement and Protection program provides to the Department of Transportation 3% of REAP appropriations annually through the year 2001 to carry out objectives of the Living Roadway Trust

Fund. This money is available for state, county and municipal management of roadside vegetation. Funds are specifically directed at integrated vegetation management with emphasis on native prairie grass plantings and maintenance with minimal chemical weed control.

Primary Contact:

Steve Holland
Office of Design-Roadside Development
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010
515/239-1768

State Recreational Trails Program

The Department of Transportation has also been entrusted with administration of the State Recreational Trails Program. Briefly, as a result of Legislative action causing the preparation of the Iowa Statewide Recreational Trails Plan in 1990 and an update, "Iowa Trails 2000", completed in 2001, \$1 million is currently appropriated to the DOT for providing grants to governmental agencies and private non-profit organizations for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and improving recreational trails within the State. The State Recreational Trails Program funds public multiple purpose recreational trails. The grant requires a 25% local match and the trail must be maintained as a public facility for a minimum of 20 years. Proposed projects must be part of a statewide, regional, areawide, or local trail plan. As of June 30, 2001, \$17.6 million has been committed for 69 separate projects.

TEA-21 – Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century

The Federal Transportation Enhancements Program, also known as TEA-21, funds enhancement or preservation activities of transportation related projects. Trail projects may fall into one of three categories: trails and bikeways, historic preservation, or scenic and natural resources. A 20 to 30% local match is required, depending on whether the project has regional or statewide significance.

Primary Contact:

Nancy Burns
Office of Systems Planning
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010
515/239-1621

V. Iowa Department of Economic Development.

IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Iowa's parks, open spaces and recreation facilities are all key components of Iowa's tourism industry. Ongoing coordination and

collaboration between the DNR and DED are essential if the State of Iowa is to realize the tourism potential that is inherent in Iowa's parks, open spaces and recreational opportunities. Two grant programs administered by DED which can be used for outdoor recreation activities are the Vision Iowa Program and the Community Attraction and Tourism Program.

Vision Iowa

The Vision Iowa program is designed to assist communities in the development and creation of major tourism facilities (minimum \$20 million in scope) for permanent cultural, recreational, entertainment and educational attractions available to the general public. Forms of assistance include grants, interest-bearing or non-interest-bearing loans, interim financing, interest subsidies, deferred payment loans, loan guarantees, float loans or other forms of assistance. Eligible applicants include a city, county, or public organization, or combination of these entities forming a 28E agreement pursuant to Iowa Code; or a school district in cooperation with a city or county.

Community Attraction and Tourism Program

The Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) program is designed to assist communities in the development and creation of multiple purpose attraction or tourism facilities. "Attraction" means a permanently located recreational, cultural, educational or entertainment activity that is available to the general public. Community attraction projects may include, but are not limited, to the following: museums, theme parks, cultural and recreational centers, recreational trails, heritage attractions, sports arenas and other attractions. A tourism facility draws people into the community from at least 50 miles (one way) from home. Projects sponsored by a city, county, public organization, or school district in cooperation with a city or county are eligible applicants.

For more information on both the Vision Iowa and CAT programs, visit the web site: <http://www.visioniowa.org>, or contact the Vision Iowa Program Coordinator at 515/242-4870.

Primary DED Contact:

Nancy Landess
Tourism Division
Iowa Department of Economic Development
200 East Grand
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515/242-4702

County Conservation Boards and Their Involvement in Iowa Recreation Issues

All counties in Iowa have county conservation boards formed under provisions of Chapter 350, of the Iowa Code. These boards are authorized to “acquire, develop, maintain, and make available to the inhabitants of the county, public museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreational centers, county forests, wildlife, and other conservation areas, and ...encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources and to... provide adequate programs of public recreation.”

In essence, county conservation boards do many of the same things that the state Department of Natural Resources does, but on a scale commensurate with local desires and funding capabilities. County conservation boards participate in many cost-sharing programs with the DNR and other state agencies in program areas where state and local goals are complimentary. These cost-sharing programs include:

1. Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
2. Wildlife Habitat Fee Grant Program
3. Marine Fuel Tax, Water Access (MFT)
4. Snowmobile Trail Development and Operation
5. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
6. Statewide Recreational Trails Program
7. Recreation Infrastructure Program (RIG)

Primary Contact:

Don Brazelton
Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards
405 SW 3rd Street, Suite 1
Ankeny, Iowa 50021
515/965-0192

Municipal Involvement In Iowa Recreation Issues

Iowa has over 950 municipalities of varying size and greatly varying structures to handle city recreation projects and programs. Many close-to-home recreation facilities are provided by city authorities and programs. The mayor or city clerk in each community is in the best position to describe current and planned municipal recreational programs. All 950+ communities in Iowa are surveyed every five years to secure updated recreation facility information. This information is available from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and is summarized on pages 20 - 25 of this plan.

Primary Contact:

Arnie Sohn, Program Administration Bureau Chief
Division of Parks, Recreation and Preserves
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034
515/281-5814

Private Sector Involvement in Iowa Recreation Issues

Nonprofit Foundations

I. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF)

The INHF was incorporated in 1979 to serve as an effective avenue to utilize the full potential of private sector assistance in natural area and resource protection. The mission of the Foundation is to build partnerships and educate Iowans to protect, preserve and enhance Iowa's natural resources for future generations. The Foundation works with private landowners, government agencies and potential funding sources, serving as a catalyst to bring about protective actions (acquisitions, fee title, conservation easements, preserve dedications, land donations, etc.). As a private entity, INHF enjoys a high degree of flexibility and a swift pace of action that is not always possible with government agencies.



Primary Contact:

Mark A. Ackelson, President
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Insurance Exchange Building, Suite 444
505 Fifth Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515/288-1846

II. Iowa Chapter, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)



The Nature Conservancy shares many goals with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The

Iowa Chapter is a part of a national organization. The original Iowa Natural Areas Inventory Project was a product of a TNC nationwide effort to classify and inventory rare plants, animals, and natural communities in an effort to better direct funds and manpower toward the protection of threatened species. TNC's Registry Program provides landowner recognition and awareness of the presence of unique natural features, with a long-range goal of providing permanent protection and management through acquisition, preserve dedication, etc.

Primary Contact:

Margaret Collison, Director
Iowa Chapter, The Nature Conservancy
431 E. Locust, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515/244-5044

III. Other Private Nonprofit Groups

The DNR maintains a mailing list of over 400 local sportsmen groups, wildlife and conservation clubs, etc. Regardless of the outdoor sport or resource concern, there is probably at least one organized group whose goals revolve around improving either the programs or resources supporting their special interests. These are important organizations and often provide valuable public input to state program proposals. Examples include the Izaak Walton League, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Rails To Trails, the Iowa Audubon Society, the Iowa Wildlife Federation, Iowa Trails Council, Iowa Trappers Asso-

ciation, the Iowa Turkey Federation, Sierra Club, Iowa Parks and Recreation Association, dozens of local or regional rod and gun clubs, equestrian groups, camper associations and many more.

Private Sector Profit-Motivated Groups

Recreation in many instances is synonymous with tourism, and tourism means substantial benefits to many local economies in Iowa. Recent years have witnessed a growing interest in private entrepreneurs seeking to capitalize on the economic opportunities generated by recreationists.

Council of Governments

The role that Iowa Areawide Planning Organizations or Regional Councils fulfill is important in bringing many opportunities to Iowa's towns, cities and counties, particularly those towns and cities with a small economic base from which to draw public funds that are not capable of hiring full-time planning staffs.

The primary goal of the Regional Councils is to serve local governments and citizens in the region by addressing issues and needs through communications, planning, advocacy, technical assistance and grant writing.

Regional Councils are voluntary associations of local governments providing a forum for officials to discuss mutual problems. They help officials identify and prioritize local and regional problems and seek solutions.

All Regional Councils employ a full-time professional staff that performs the actual planning, service delivery and administration activities. Regional Council staffs provide assistance to members in developing plans and programs including recreational plans. These organizations provide application and administrative assistance to members requesting federal and state grants and loans.

Of particular interest to the Iowa SCORP, is the assistance Regional Councils provide in the writing and administration of Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) applications, Recreation Infrastructure Grants (RIG), recreation plan development and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) applications.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Strategic Plan For The Future of Iowa's State Preserves

The plan, completed in 2001, was developed by members of the State Preserves Advisory Board, DNR staff and outside advisors. The plan identifies its mission statement as follows:

We will work with the people of Iowa to identify and preserve areas with geological, biological, archaeological, historic or scenic features of scientific or educational value. We consider preserve status the highest, best and most important use of an area for the public benefit, and will maintain and enhance these protected lands as sanctuaries for present and future generations.

Through meetings held by the State Preserves Advisory Board, a number of key issues were identified and discussed as well as strategies and actions to overcome impediments and achieve goals. The issues were condensed into three main areas of concern and goals and strategies were developed to address each concern. The following are the three concerns and corresponding goals.

Concern #1 – The Preserves Board and the DNR staff have been unable to fully carry out all the duties necessary to maintain the preserve system and promote its growth.

Goal: Achieve the full potential of the preserves system.

Concern #2 – The preserves system should be managed in an ecologically and culturally responsible manner.

Goal: Develop and implement a long-range plan for the designation and management of preserves.

Concern #3 – The state preserve system faces challenges in developing public constituencies. We need to educate the public about the significance and value of the preserves. Public understanding, advocacy and legislative support for the state preserve system are essential if it is to survive and grow.

Goal: Garner public and legislative support for the preserve system.

A number of strategies for each concern are also outlined in the plan. For more information contact John Pearson, DNR, 515/281-3891.

Iowa Nonpoint Source Management Program

Section 319 was added to the Clean Water Act in 1987 to support state and local nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control efforts. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through the Section 319 program, provides grant funds to states to implement NPS pollution control programs and projects.

In Iowa, the designated lead agency for the Section 319 program is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The IDNR has received Section 319 funding annually since FFY90. These funds have increased over the years from the initial award in FFY90 of \$850,000 to the FFY01 award of \$5.3 million. While a portion of Iowa's funding supports program administration and implementation activities conducted by IDNR staff, the majority is used to support 3 to 5 year projects conducted by cooperating agencies and organizations.

Projects funded with Section 319 funding include: NPS information and education programs, demonstration of innovative and alternative Best Management Practices (BMPs) for controlling NPS pollution, implementation of NPS controls in priority lake and trout stream watersheds, and protection and restoration of other publicly owned waters impacted by NPS pollution where a need for such can be demonstrated and improvements can be expected.

Section 319 funds supported 48 water quality projects in Iowa during FFY2001. Of these, 22 were watershed projects, targeting coldwater streams, warmwater streams, lakes and groundwater. Activities conducted as part of these projects include promotion of CRP and other conservation farming practices, installation of buffer strips and streambank stabilization, and development and/or restoration of wetlands.

The main objective of these projects and activities is to improve water quality, which in turn will increase the recreational opportunities. Aquatic life is healthier, the fishery is more abundant and from a public perspective, the waters are more aesthetically desirable and healthier. In addition, with many of these practices, areas of the watersheds are more suitable for public recreation due to increase and improved wildlife habitat and better accessibility due to reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

Park and Institutional Road Fund Program

The Department of Natural Resources is one of several state agencies that qualify for a portion of the road use tax monies allocated to the Park and Institutional Road Fund. Each year, DNR staff members coordinate with Department of Transportation personnel to determine needs for the construction, rebuilding, improvement, and maintenance of roads and bridges located within DNR parks, recreation areas, forests and wildlife management areas throughout the state.

The Iowa Code allows 0.65 percent of the road use taxes to be placed in the primary road fund for use in the Park and Institutional Road Fund. This transfer of funds is allocated by the Department of Transportation to the various agencies who administer roads which qualify under this program. Agencies besides the DNR include the Department of Human Services, State Department of Adult Corrections, State Board of Regents, Iowa Department of General Services, State Department of Education (merged area schools), State Fairgrounds, and Iowa National Guard (Camp Dodge).

Individual agency allocations are based on the most recent quadrennial highway needs study conducted by the DOT. Allocations to agencies are guided by the ratio of the needs of each agency's road system to the total needs of the agencies. The DNR typically receives approximately 50% of the total available. To qualify for funding, a road or street must normally lie within the boundaries of state lands operated as parks or institutions, and be open to the public for vehicular traffic. Jurisdiction and control over the road is vested in the park and institutional agency.

A principal program emphasis has been placed on ensuring that key existing gravel roadways are surfaced in order to enhance visitor safety, convenience and enjoyment. This emphasis is not at the expense of other needed projects or activities. There are approximately ten projects completed each year. High priority areas for new road system development include, for example, the Brushy Creek and Volga River State Recreation Areas. The DOT maintains a five-year program of Park and Institutional Road Fund projects. The program is reviewed and updated by participating agencies each year.

Protected Water Areas Program

The Protected Water Area (PWA) program was initi-

ated in 1978 with the preparation of the statewide Iowa Protected Water Areas General Plan to guide the program's development and implementation. This plan was completed in 1981, approved by the Department of Natural Resources and submitted to the state legislature. The legislature enacted the PWA law in 1984.

The basic purpose of the PWA program is to establish a system for designating portions of selected lakes, rivers, streams and marshes for the purpose of preserving, protecting and enhancing outstanding natural and cultural resources of water and associated land areas.

Iowa DNR Americans With Disabilities Act Policy Statement

Persons with disabilities are guaranteed specific rights in federally funded programs and activities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL 93-122), as amended (PL 93-516, PL 95-602). All recipients of federal funds must review and, if necessary, modify their programs and activities so that discrimination based on disability is eliminated. Subtitle A of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (PL101-336) extends the prohibition of discrimination in federally assisted programs established by section 504 of the rehabilitation Act of 1973 to all activities of State and local governments, excluding those that do not receive Federal financial assistance.

In essence, the programs, services, activities, and facilities of all State and local governments must be readily accessible to and usable by persons having a disability, including mobility, visual, hearing or mental impairments. Section 504 further defines a "person with a disability" to mean any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs, services and activities. To reaffirm this commitment and to meet the requirements set forth by Section 504 and ADA, the Department has examined its policies, programs activities and facilities to identify problems of inaccessibility and potential discrimination toward individuals with disabilities. This examination was conducted as a "Self-Evaluation" of employment and administrative practices, programs and facility accessibility.

Employment and Administrative Practices

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has instituted several actions to ensure equal and fair opportunity and treatment for individuals with disabilities. The Department is required by law to have an Affirmative Action Plan. A specific section of the plan pertains to affirmative actions for individuals with disabilities, including recruitment procedures, programs in state government, employment criteria, reasonable accommodations, etc. Upon assessment and determination of individual needs the Department will, within reason, remove on-the-job physical barriers which will interfere with the ability of an employee who has a disability, to perform his or her job.

As a recipient of federal funds, the Department is required to provide assurance that it will comply with Civil Rights requirements in its development and research projects. As the administrative liaison of federal funds to local governmental entities, it is the responsibility of the Department to inform each recipient of its duties and responsibilities to comply with Civil Rights requirements.

The Department is required to provide continuous notification to the public regarding its policy of non-discrimination and its procedures for filing complaints. The Department proclaims its policy and procedures through its printed publications, park brochures, program materials, posters, permit applications and registration forms.

Program Accessibility

Achieving “program accessibility” is the key to compliance with Section 504 and ADA. Park and recreation agencies, like the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, are required to “operate each program or activity so that a program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities.” Furthermore, a major objective of Section 504 is that programs be accessible to people with disabilities in the “most integrated setting appropriate.” In most instances, with few or possibly no adjustments at all, this setting will be the same as that for the non-disabled person. The intent is to keep the segregation, separation or different treatment of persons with disabilities, except when necessary to ensure program participation, to a minimum.

“Facility accessibility” is one method in achieving pro-

gram accessibility. However, it is important to note that emphasis is on making programs accessible. Section 504 and ADA does not mandate the alteration of existing facilities or the construction of new facilities just to accommodate the disabled. Only where there is no other feasible means to achieve program accessibility are structural modifications to existing facilities required. However, in instances of new construction and alterations of existing facilities for reasons other than Section 504/ADA and achieving program accessibility, structural accessibility must be provided.

Most people view “accessibility” in terms of physical access to a site or facility, typically by a person who uses a wheelchair. True accessibility extends beyond the important considerations of physical barriers. The person with a disability must have the same opportunity as other people to enjoy what is there. Accessibility to programs includes being able to physically use a site or a facility and, to enjoy and benefit from the experience of participating in the program, service or activity.

As means of improving program accessibility, the Department has conducted a facility inventory and evaluation to assess the accessibility of parks and recreational sites. This inventory compiled data on buildings and the physical support necessary to use them such as restrooms, dining halls, showers, and walkway gradients and it assessed various recreational areas such as shoreline fishing access. At the time of the survey, the facilities were placed in one of four categories, A through D. Category A facilities were accessible to individuals with disabilities; category B facilities would be accessible with minor modifications; category C facilities could be accessible but only with major modifications; and category D facilities represented those facilities where modifications are not practical.

The Department of Natural Resources recognizes that existing accessibility does not completely accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. Recognizing these deficiencies, the Department can ensure that every program and activity is sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities and that these program deficiencies are being and will continue to be corrected in a timely manner.

Wetlands Protection

2001 Iowa SCORP

An outline map of the state of Iowa is positioned behind the text "2001 Iowa SCORP". The map shows the state's irregular borders, including its northern, eastern, and southern edges.

Introduction –The Worth of a Wetland

Unfortunately, most of Iowa's wetlands were gone before anyone gave much serious thought to the values of such areas. Today we can only imagine the vast and diverse system of prairie marshlands totaling almost 2 million acres (Bishop and Van Der Valk, 1982). Early Iowa settlers and their descendants have had to deal with the harsh realities associated with making a living from the Iowa landscape. Consequently, productive marshes were converted into productive croplands.

The "Swamp Land Act of 1850" granted some 1.2 million acres of wetlands to the State of Iowa for swamp reclamation. Counties bartered and sold these lands for as little as 25 cents an acre, often to immigration companies with the condition that they put settlers on the lands.

To those early Iowa settlers, the worth of a marsh lay only in their ability to easily drain it and convert it to productive farmland. That pattern, begun in the late 1800's persisted and grew. By 1938, only 50,000 acres of prime marshland remained in Iowa (Bennet, 1938). Today there are about 27,000 acres of natural marsh. The early challenge, that of eliminating the state's marshlands and replacing them with croplands, now stands at 96.5 percent completed; and a more recent challenge, that of protecting and restoring wetlands for their other values, has only just begun.

It was not until the late 1930's that a public perception of the worth of a wetland left in its natural condition evidenced itself. In 1937 the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, creating a federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. The Iowa Conservation Commission, utilizing state funds and federal cost-sharing funds, began to purchase remaining wetlands because of their high value as wildlife production and ecological areas.

Today, publicly-owned natural marshes total nearly 25,000 acres in Iowa (excluding the Mississippi River). An additional 29,800 acres of artificially-created or restored marshes have been established. Relatively few acres (about 10,000) of natural prairie marshlands remain in private ownership, and there is a priority by natural resource agencies and private interests to secure permanent protection for the remaining fragments. Additionally there are opportunities to restore at least some of the wetlands that have been lost.

As is too often the case, the worth of wetlands as high quality natural areas with abundant opportunities for wildlife, recreation and education uses, has been slow to receive broad-based public support. Only when the last fraction of a percent of these wetlands remained was there sufficient interest generated to protect them. Fortunately, recognition of this worth has increased, with the requirement of this planning document as just one more indication of a growing concern with the protection and restoration of wetland resources in Iowa and in the rest of the United States.

There is also evidence that the other values of wetlands are being recognized and appreciated. Wetlands are important in the maintenance of the quality and quantity of groundwater supplies. Wetlands also have the capacity to store floodwaters temporarily, and, in some instances, to reduce the volume and severity of floods. Such values ultimately translate into economic savings stemming from reduced water treatment costs, improved health status and reduced flood damages.

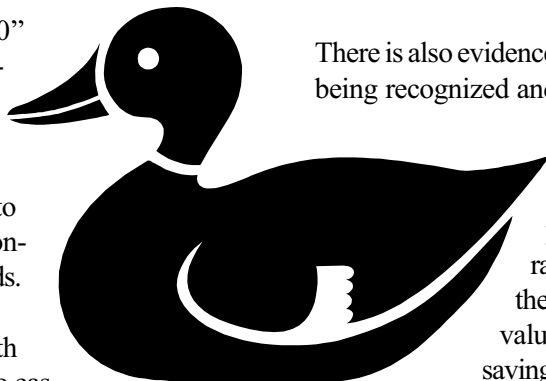
Additionally, waterfowl hunters and nature study enthusiasts find wetlands as attractive and essential resources to support their pastimes, and direct economic and tourism benefits are derived.

Iowa's Remaining Wetlands

Iowa's remaining high-priority wetlands are not evenly distributed across the state. Glaciers, particularly the Des Moines Lobe of the Wisconsin Glacier, played major roles in making Iowa what it is today, including the state's wetland resources.

The topography, soil types and resultant land use patterns in Iowa often provide dramatic evidence of the periodic advance and retreat of glaciers. The natural lakes and prairie potholes of north central and northwest Iowa are clearly associated with the Des Moines Lobe of the Wisconsin Glacier.

These prairie pothole marshes are not the only significant wetlands in Iowa. The many interior rivers and streams traversing the state provide additional wetland resources. All of these rivers, but most notably the Cedar and Wapsipinicon, provide high-quality wetlands associated with side channels, overflow areas and old oxbows.



Iowa's border rivers, the Mississippi and Missouri, provide a startling contrast in wetland resources. The Mississippi on one side has been altered by a series of navigational locks and dams which actually expanded surface water resources, and the Missouri River on the other side has been dramatically impacted by channelization projects, resulting in losses of over 500,000 acres of wildlife habitat (much of it of a wetland nature). Though these major border rivers are very different from each other, both possess substantial wetland values or potentials that warrant high-priority attention in any plan to improve wetland resources in Iowa.

Restoration Benefits

The multiple benefits of wetlands have increasingly been recognized in recent years. Waterfowl were and continue to be of prime consideration in wetland protection and restoration efforts. The awareness of the importance of wetlands to non-waterfowl migratory bird species has also increased, and these species are now taken into consideration when wetland restoration plans are prepared. The protection of uplands surrounding restored wetlands has also been emphasized in recent years. Permanent grasslands surrounding these wetlands not only provide nesting habitat for waterfowl, but also for a wide variety of other grassland nesting birds. Many of these neo-tropical migrant species have experienced drastic population declines and the restoration and protection of extensive tracts of grasslands are important to their survival. Stable wetland/grassland systems have also been recognized as important to a variety of fish, amphibian, reptile and mammal species. Native prairie protection and warm season grasses and forb planting also provide habitat for a variety of butterfly and other beneficial invertebrate species.

The recreation potential provided by wetland complexes can add to the quality of life for area residents and provide financial benefits through hunting, trapping and other tourism related income. These areas serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education purposes and other nature study pursuits such as wildlife photography and birdwatching.

Wetlands, when associated with surrounding protected uplands, provide well documented water quality ben-

efits. Wetlands serve as filters to remove silt and chemical pollutants from surface waters and can help to purify and recharge ground water supplies. They serve as sponges to absorb, store and slowly release surface water with a resulting reduction in flood waters.

Iowa Wetlands Protection Plans

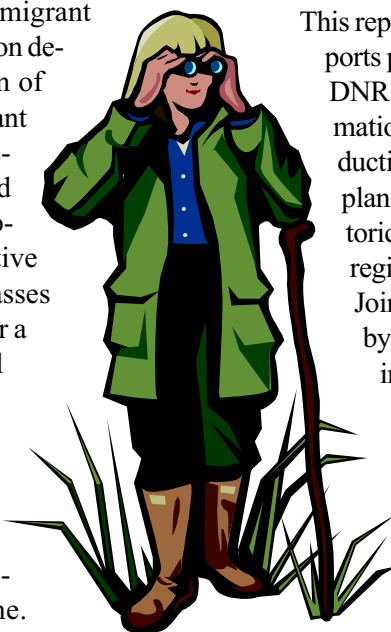
Iowa's wetlands are broken into two areas. The prairie pothole region describes north central and northwest Iowa. This portion of the state is characterized by a relatively flat, poorly drained landform that was shaped and flattened by ice masses during the Wisconsin and Iowan glacial periods. The other wetland regions consist of areas associated with the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and their tributaries. These areas of the state are characterized by gently rolling hills and are better drained in comparison to the prairie pothole region.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources refers to three plans to provide for protection and restoration of wetlands in Iowa.

Identification of Potential Wetland Complex Restorations in the Prairie Pothole Region of Iowa (Revised March 1999)

This report is an update and consolidation of two reports prepared by the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa DNR in 1988. The previous plans included information on wetland management, waterfowl production and species lists not found in the current plan. Additional biological, geological and historical information on the Iowa prairie pothole region can be found in the "Iowa Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Implementation Plan" published by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in 1990.

The original reports were compiled following a series of public input meetings and utilizing guidance from a group of individuals called the "Wetland Coordinating Committee for the Iowa Prairie Pothole Joint Venture". This committee was made up of representatives from a wide variety of government conservation agencies, and non-government conservation organizations. The committee has been realigned since that time and now includes a greater representation from private landowners. It is now called the "Iowa Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Steering Committee".



The current report was also written by staff wildlife biologists of the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa DNR, drawing upon guidance provided by the original public input and committee meetings. It is intended as a working guide for the identification and protection of wetland complex areas that still have a potential for wetland restoration and associated upland protection. It recognizes that a wide variety of options are available for wetland protection including, but not restricted to, the acquisition of lands from willing sellers by public agencies. Other options are targeted at wetland and upland protection and restoration while keeping the land in private ownership. These options include short and long-term easements, tax incentives, and financial and technical assistance to private landowners for the restoration and maintenance of these habitat types.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan Upper Mississippi River & Great Lakes Region Joint Venture – Implementation Plan, 1998

The original version of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan was implemented in 1986. The strategic plan was designed to address concerns about long-term declines in waterfowl populations, linked to dramatic losses of wetlands and upland nesting habitats. The plan identified habitat loss and degradation as the major waterfowl management problem in North America.

There have been several changes to the plan since it was implemented in 1986. Joint ventures were established as partnerships in geographical areas became organized. The Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture was established in 1993. The Joint Venture established goals for the region and as well as state-specific objectives and strategies.

Iowa's objectives are as follows:

Objective 1: Conserve 267,500 acres of breeding waterfowl habitat, supporting an annual breeding duck population of 63,000.

Objective 2: Conserve 24,000 acres of migratory waterfowl habitat.

Iowa's strategies include the two main topics of breeding habitat and migrational habitat. Each topic is followed by a list several strategies to address breeding and migrational habitats in Iowa. Also discussed in the plan are focus areas within the state outlining where efforts need to be concentrated.

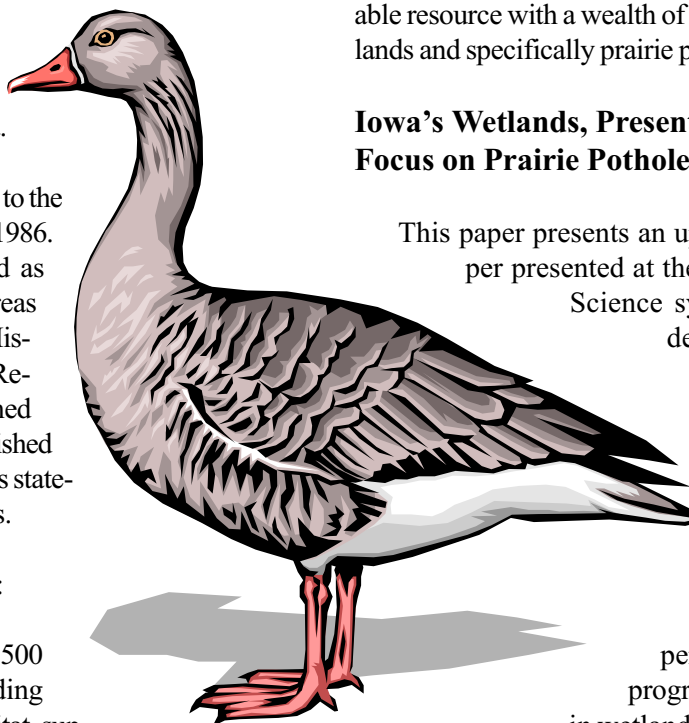
Iowa Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Implementation Plan – February 1990

This document was prepared by the IDNR in February 1990 and lists a series of goals, objectives, strategies and priority tasks that have since become outdated. This plan is worthy of mention because of two main factors. The first is the benefits that can be gained by examining past objectives and goals while setting future objectives and goals. It is also possible to see what has been accomplished as a result of the plan and whether the desired results were obtained. The other side of that is to examine what has not been accomplished and determine whether it is still a priority. The second factor that makes the plan worth mentioning is the amount of biological, geological and historical information on the Iowa prairie pothole region that is contained within the plan. This plan is a valuable resource with a wealth of information related to wetlands and specifically prairie potholes in Iowa.

Iowa's Wetlands, Present and Future with a Focus on Prairie Potholes - 1998

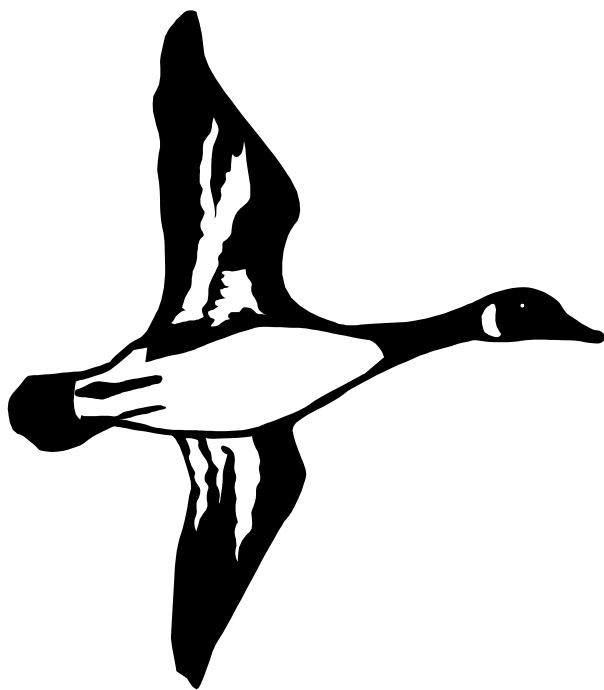
This paper presents an update to the wetlands paper presented at the 1980 Iowa Academy of Science symposium on the state's declining flora and fauna.

Three staff members of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Fisheries Division wrote this paper. The paper presents information including a historical perspective, legislation and programs implemented to assist in wetland protection and a series of areas that require energy to be focused in the future. The areas of focus are summarized as follows:



1. Sustain the momentum that is currently driving the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program (EWRP). (Both programs are detailed in the paper.)
2. Active participation by both the public and private is needed to maintain the current momentum for wetland protection and restoration. The State Legislature and the U.S. Congress must be urged to fund wetland programs.
3. Public support is needed to help Congress determine which wetlands are worthy of protection.
4. The scientific community must continue to explore and document the values of wetlands.
5. Wetland databases must be refined and verified on the ground so that future losses and gains can be measured.
6. Long-term operation and maintenance funding will be needed for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to manage the WRP and EWRP easements that remain in private ownership.

For more information on these plans and wetland protection efforts in Iowa, contact Dale Garner, Executive Officer 2, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Fisheries Division at 515/281-7127.



Open Project Selection Process (OPSP)

OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS
STATE OF IOWA
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND
LOCAL PROJECT APPLICATIONS
2001

MAY 2001

INTRODUCTION

The following pages describe the process for evaluating and establishing priorities for awarding cost-sharing grants to local political subdivisions under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program. The LWCF is administered at the federal level by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Each year, congress appropriates funds to be used for cost-sharing with states and their political subdivisions for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation projects.

In Iowa, the LWCF is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources from its central offices in the Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. Grants are administered by the Grants Bureau of the IDNR, Mark Slatterly, Chief. Planning programs associated with the LWCF are administered by the Program Administration Bureau of the Parks, Recreation and Preserves Division, Arnie Sohn, Chief.

Administrative rules have been developed and approved under Chapter 17A, Code of Iowa. Those rules are recorded in Section 571-27 of the Iowa Administrative Code, and should be referred to for additional detail on the LWCF. In addition, the IDNR annually publishes "Guidelines for Local Participation" in the LWCF. This publication includes a copy of the administrative rules, general instructions for completing an application, the application form itself, and any other specific information relevant to the funding cycle which is forthcoming. Copies of this publication are mailed to all city clerks in Iowa, all county conservation boards, regional planning agencies, RC&D offices, and to individuals who have requested their names and addresses be placed on a mailing list.

This Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) has been developed to provide potential grant applicants and other interested parties with the knowledge on how the State of Iowa will evaluate and rank all eligible project applications. The awarding of a 50 percent grant is an action to commit funds to acquire and/or develop an outdoor recreational project that is in accord with local plans and priorities. Projects selected for cost-sharing with LWCF must also be in accord with State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) priorities to the greatest extent possible. The State is required to periodically publish a SCORP which provides an overview of the supply, demand, needs and recommended actions to address outdoor recreation issues. The SCORP is typically a 5-year document prepared by the Program Administration Bureau of the Iowa DNR and approved by the National Park Service. Local project sponsors are required to provide evidence of the planning processes which led to a project application. Such evidence may include public surveys, public hearing records, approved local plans, etc.

SCORP is properly considered as both a planning document and a planning process. The 2001 Iowa SCORP includes several supplements which are special studies addressing more focused areas of concern in a more detailed manner. These supplements include such things as: (1) Iowa Trails 2000; (2) Iowa DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails Plan; (3) five Protected Water Area management plans; (4) Iowa Forest Resources Plan; (5) "Recreational Activities & Environmental Opinions: A Statewide Survey of Adult Iowans"; and other plans as they are developed. The Iowa SCORP recognizes that no statewide planning document or process can full address specific local recreational needs and opportunities of Iowa's 99 counties and 950+ communities. Consequently, heavy reliance is placed on local planning documents, planning processes and justification statements provided by LWCF applicants in their applications for funding.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING APPLICATIONS

Following are the criteria and weighting factors included in Chapter 571-27 of the Iowa Administrative Code as the areas under which each local project application will be scored. Applications are evaluated independently by a 3-member review and selection committee. Each criterion is given a score from 1 to 10 and that score is then multiplied by the weight factor. In addition, bonus and penalty points are listed below and described in administrative rules and application packets.

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>WEIGHT FACTOR</u>
Relationship to SCORP Priorities	5
Direct Recreational Benefits	1
Local Needs	1
Quality of the Site	1

BONUS AND PENALTY POINTS

Planning processes and relationships—Up to 3 bonus points
Minority population being served—Up to 3 bonus points
Special elderly/handicapped features—3 bonus points
No prior LWCF assistance---5 bonus points
Fair share allocation---Up to 5 penalty points

EXPLANATION OF CRITERIA

Quality of Site

Certain types of land resources and development lend themselves more readily to selected recreational uses. Factors such as topography, vegetation, location in relation to the people who will use the facility, access and adjacent land use all enter into the assessment of a project's site quality. A flat cropfield adjacent to a residential area has little value for those types of recreational activities typically found in wooded hills adjacent to one of Iowa's rivers. However, for development of a ballfield complex, the cropfield may be ideal. No clearing is required, very little grading and earthwork is needed, potential users live nearby and could safely get access to the sports complex, etc. Therefore site quality may be excellent relative to the intended use of the land.

Many of the SCORP supplements include detailed assessments of a resource base and recommendations as to which areas have the highest priority for protection or public use opportunities. For example, the Iowa Protected Water Areas General Plan examined most of Iowa's 19,000 miles of rivers and streams and recommended which of them warrant priority for protective measures. More detailed management plans developed for each of the five designated rivers take this identification of priorities one step further. Also the "Iowa Trails 2000" report compiled by the Iowa DOT identifies high priority trail corridors and mechanisms for pursuing implementation of trails in Iowa. The Iowa DOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan takes this general statement of priorities one step further and recommends specific trail segments as most important to making meaningful progress toward the overall goals of trail development in Iowa.

In the case of many local projects, there is no similar statewide assessment of resource quality and needs. However, project applicants are encouraged to provide evidence of planning processes which logically look at similar considerations from a local perspective. Ballfields, swimming pools, tennis courts, picnic grounds, campgrounds, etc., all can be made to fit in a variety of locations. However, the expense involved in making a poor site into a good one (or at least a better one) often provides graphic evidence of poor site quality. In the example of ballfield development, if an inordinate amount of the total budget is going for earthwork, it is a clear signal that the site is not a level one and that it in fact is probably not a good site for a ballfield in the first place. While there may be many valid arguments that it is the only site available, committee judgement and scoring may indicate that some other equally valuable addition to another city's recreational resources is more feasible and much less expensive relative to the benefits to be realized.

Relationship to SCORP Priorities

As part of the updating process to complete the 2001 Iowa SCORP an advisory committee was assembled to identify issues and priorities as viewed from a wide spectrum of recreation users and providers. The committee identified an extensive list of issues and priorities that are represented by eleven general areas of focus. These lists of general focus areas and the list of twelve more specific issue areas should be reviewed relative to each criterion as applications are completed. The eleven general areas of focus are:

Resource Protection
Partnerships
Education
Funding
Land Acquisition
Facility Maintenance
Marketing
Shared Resources
Trends
Analysis
Safety and Access for Persons with Disabilities

In addition to these general areas of focus, the SCORP Advisory Committee compiled a list of outdoor recreation issues in need of special consideration. That list includes the following:

- Better marketing of outdoor recreational opportunities using latest technologies
- More use of partnerships between various agencies and special user groups
- Education for all ages in outdoor skills and stewardship ethics
- Education of public and policy makers on importance of outdoor recreation
- Need for additional funding and coordinated awareness program on funds that are already available
- Increased acquisition of lands and waters representative of various ecological communities and landforms throughout the state, with management to assure preservation
- Recreational developments appropriate to particular land area and incorporating protection of sensitive natural areas
- Need to define and preserve areas to remain primitive, areas that are resources to the state, nation and world. Expand and buffer parks. Protect representative landscapes in each landform region.
- Education of Iowans in order to increase awareness and appreciation of natural resources
- Need for renovation and maintenance of existing facilities to ensure equal access for all users and ensure that all new projects will provide for access for all
- Future recreational opportunities should focus on attracting all ages of people to Iowa and promotion of health and wellness in Iowa. Broaden focus to accommodate new trends in recreation (i.e. paintball areas, skate parks, rollerblading, ATVs, etc.)
- Role of private lands for recreation is an area that should be expanded upon

This list is not inclusive of every recreation/resource issue that will arise during the tenure of the current SCORP. Local project applicants have a responsibility for addressing applicable issues, but they may also make the case for many other specific issues which are of high priority to them. As with other criterion, the project review and selection committee will be called upon to use their judgement in determination of appropriate scores and rankings, and those projects which directly address identified high-priority issues will likely score higher than those which don't.

Direct Recreational Benefits

This criterion is a reflection of the diversity of recreation opportunities provided by a project and the range and numbers of persons who will benefit through use of the facility or facilities to be provided. As a simple example, a multi-purpose trail will score higher than a single-purpose trail. Projects with a low capacity for users and a low

turnover rate by those users (e.g. tennis courts) may score lower than projects having a large capacity and/or a high turnover rate. These are considerations that logically fit within SCORP discussions of issues.

There will always be a need for planning, coordination and research to make the most effective and efficient use of Iowa's recreational resources. This implies a multiple use philosophy and a policy of developing those areas and projects where recreational benefits from a dollar expended are maximized in terms of numbers of recreational pastimes provided. The same general philosophy will apply to locally sponsored projects seeking cost-sharing and will be one consideration in arriving at a score for this criterion.

Local Need

Determination of "need" is at times subjective, and may be difficult to separate or distinguish from "want". However, relative need remains a legitimate criterion and should be assessed to the best of the applicant's ability to measure and portray it. Applicants for LWCF assistance are encouraged to accurately describe the level of need for projects applied for. Documentation of that need may include the results of local public meetings, local surveys, facts and figures on crowding, statistics of increasing population levels and accompanying increased levels of use on existing facilities, etc. Local sponsors are in the best position to understand and to present in writing what their recreational needs are. This local representation of need is a major portion of the score to be granted under this criterion.

At times, recreation "standards" may also be used to illustrate a local entity's low level of supply of given recreational areas and facilities relative to what is recommended as a desirable level. For example, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and other entities have published documents that can help to identify recreational standards which can, at times, be used to help build a valid case for a project's "need."

Bonus and Penalty Points

No Prior Assistance---Any applicant that has never received an LWCF grant will be given a bonus of five points.

Elderly and Persons with Disabilities---Projects which have special features for the elderly and persons with disabilities above normal access requirements for this population will receive a bonus of three points.

Minority Population---Projects which serve an area of greater minority population than the state average of 2.6 percent will receive up to three bonus points.

Planning Processes and Relationships---Projects should show evidence of having been through the normal channels of review and approved by proper local decision makers, thereby assuring that public support and a commitment to operate and maintain the facility are present. In addition, consideration is also given if there is evidence that the project is a part of broader plans which exist. For example, a short trail segment connecting a small town with a nearby park may at first glance appear to be an isolated project. However, if that short segment is actually meeting part of a long-range goal of providing inter-city or inter-park trail links, it takes on added significance. That significance relates to the fact that the short segment will provide an important connecting link in the overall project plan, and its development will help generate support for other segments of the long-range project. If these two conditions are well documented, up to three bonus points will be awarded.

This is an important bonus category in that it can lead to better quality projects, avoids unnecessary duplication of facilities, taps new sources of funding and support, and results in a broader and deeper commitment to operating and maintaining the facility once it is developed.

Prior Assistance Fair Share---Any applicant that has received prior assistance which is more than their calculated fair share will be assessed up to five penalty points. (See Iowa Administrative Code Section 571-27.6(3)a for detailed fair share penalty point categories).

The above-described criteria and bonus points result in a total maximum project score of 94 points. Of that total, at least 50 points are directly defined as SCORP-related.

Any project not scoring at least 60 points is returned to the applicant. Others are funded within limits of available federal cost-sharing apportionments. Projects are ranked according to their score and funded in the order of that score. Projects too far down the priority list to receive federal cost-sharing are returned to the applicant and may be resubmitted during the next annual application/funding cycle.

The Natural Resource Commission will review all committee recommendations for each review period at the following NRC meeting. The NRC may reject any application selected for funding or approve any application not selected. The National Park Service will also review any application selected for funding for final review and grant approval.